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\$193M Illegal Payments by MassHealth

INCOMPETENT

MassHealth

SEE PAGE 6

"This audit is the latest example of poor claims administration at MassHealth," State Auditor Suzanne Bump said. "Some of the problems identified stem from MassHealth and its contractors' different understandings of who is to pay what; other times MassHealth simply acts contrary to its own rules and standards."

INDEX



Jeff Katz
Page 2

Veterans.....	1, 6, 14, 23
Katz & Kaprielian.....	2
Editorial/Op Ed- Boxford.....	3
Lawrence.....	5, 10, 13, 18
Methuen.....	5-7, 17
Around the Valley	6-9
Lowell.....	6
North Andover/Haverhill....	7
Duggan's Notebook.....	8-9
Massachusetts.....	10, 21
New Hampshire.....	13
Culture War.....	16
Israel.....	17
Health.....	19-21
PETS.....	19
Radio and TV	20
Religion.....	22
Money.....	24



**AI
Kaprielian**
WEATHER
101
PAGE 2



**Linda
Dean
Campbell**
State Rep.
PAGE 6



**IN YOUR
CORNER**
Sen. Ives
PAGE 10



**Cindy
Annis'**
Vinyl Vault
ON WCAP
PAGE 20

**Northern Essex Registry of Deeds:
Real Estate Sales and Foreclosures**

PAGES 25-26

VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

Iraqi Sniper Julian Jaramillo, USMC

Beth D'Amato
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

Julian Jaramillo was born in Brownsville, Texas on January 31, 1972. He comes from a strong military family which is why he says he entered the service right out of high school in 1991. Julian served from

1991 to 2006.

As a United States Marine, Julian was deployed to Iraq in 2005, where he was assigned to capture the most wanted guys under Saddam Hussein.

At that time, his team was on an unconventional sniper mission. Julian says that operating in a smaller group allowed them

to keep a low profile in enemy territory and remain hidden from the enemy as much as they could.

Julian told The Valley Patriot that his team set up small check points to inspect suspicious vehicles.

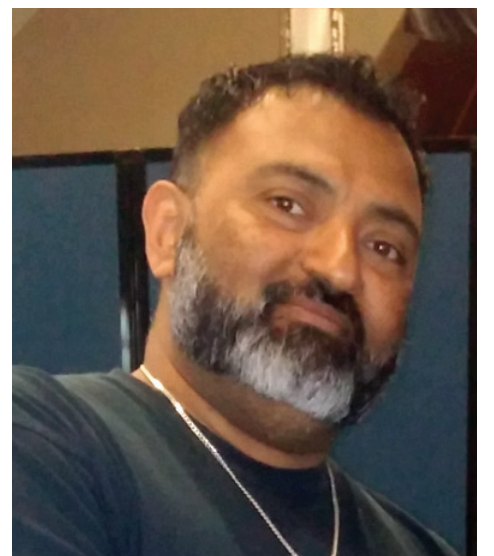
"On one particular night, a car came through the check point. We detained the man," Julian said.

"He had a bunch of numbers written in Arabic on pieces of paper in his pocket and in his car. We had an interpreter with us and he asked me to watch the guy's face while he asked him a question. When he asked a question, the guy hesitated with his answer. The interpreter said this guy is lying. He said this guy is a BAD guy."

Julian says this bad guy had a list, or a data sheet on him containing the name and address of an Iraqi Engineer.

Also on the list were detailed descriptions of the engineer's car, house, windows, doors, floor plan, his family, kids, ages, etc. Being overly suspicious, Julian and his team brought the man in for questioning. As time went on it was clear the man was an assassin. The engineer he had the info on was a man to be assassinated. The victim was one of the engineers leading the rebuilding and restructuring of the new Iraqi government. The assassin that Julian and his team had captured was on his way to meet up with the rest of an insurgence team to take him out. Instead, Julian's team took him to a prison at Abu Ghraib.

Julian also detailed the time he and his team detained a guy who had all the mak-



ings of a bomb in his trunk; propane tanks, gas tanks, wiring, cell phones, etc. He was on his way to somebody's house to rig up their vehicle.

"Of course, this didn't feel right so we detained him."

Julian says he had to go to Iraqi court in Baghdad to testify against this guy. Julian spoke some Arabic which would aid him well during the court case. The judge and the Muslim terrorist were going back and forth about the events leading up to his being detained. The terrorist said he would have stopped at the checkpoint but didn't see Julian's team. The judge, however, figured out what was going on and used an Arabic word for sniper. That's when Julian spoke up and repeated the word to the

HERO: PAGE 23

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She Still Does Not Get It

Jeff Katz
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Every so often you run into someone who just does not get it. You know the type, the guy who keeps telling you how best to lose weight even though he’s lug-ging around an extra hundred pounds. Or the person with no children who wants to lecture you on the proper way you should raise yours. The clueless boob who is talking loudly on their phone in the movie theater and cannot understand how you could have the temerity to ask them to stop. Let’s add one more to the list. The Presidential candidate who has failed mul-tiple times but still cannot bring herself to understand why.

After a few months of hiding under a rock somewhere in Chappaqua, New York it appears that Hillary Clinton has emerged and is once again ready to lecture all of us on everything. Before launching in to a speech on the best way to have a successful marriage or gracing us with some insightful tips on proper email eti-quette, the woman who would not be Pres-ident thought it best to explain to all of us why she’s still a private citizen instead of leader of the free world.

In a rather chummy setting with her New York Times chum Little Nicky Kristof tossing her underhand softballs, Mrs. Clinton opined on the reasons for her latest crushing defeat. According to her, the WikiLeaks hack of her campaign’s email caused a big part of this. You’ll recall that the emails revealed the disgust-ing, bigoted and insulting thoughts the Clintonistas embraced. The underhanded

efforts by Team Clinton and their unin-dicted co-conspirators at the Democrat National Committee to throw the election for Hillary were exposed in those emails, too. Hillary Clinton never once denied any of the substance of the emails but once again those pesky facts really torpedoed her.

Next on her hit list? Russia. Why? Why not? The official leftist narrative is that somehow, someway the Russians “hacked” the electoral process. Pressed for details, you soon realize that there are none. There’s not a single instance of Rus-sia tapping in to a voting machine any-where in America nor is there a solitary case of the Russians stealing paper ballots and casting them for someone other than Mrs. Clinton. But once again, facts be damned.

Hillary Clinton calls out two people by name who, she claims, really are respon-sible for her losing to Donald J. Trump. Number one on her list is Valdimir Putin, because after all he’s clearly responsible for those imaginary Russian ballot box thefts. Number two is James Comey, because he dared to tell the truth about her despicable conduct when handling highly classified material.

Finally, Hillary Clinton announced that “Certainly misogyny played a role.” Yup, Hillary Clinton is convinced that a mis-guided and unfounded hatred of women was responsible for her failure to become the first female President of the United States, despite the fact that the majority of female voters cast their ballots for her

KATZ: PAGE 22

“WEATHER 101” WITH AL!

Al Kaprielian
VALLEY PATRIOT WEATHERMAN

This year March proved to be a chilly month. We saw many days where the temperatures averaged below normal. Also we had some winter weather with a blizzard on Tuesday March 14. This storm brought heavy snow inland with mostly rain along the coast.

This storm had strong winds due to the high intensification it had. The wind gusted to 79 mile per hour at Wellfleet on lower Cape Cod. Barnstable on the mid Cape had a wind gust to 74 miles per hour. Hurricane force winds are 74 miles per hour and this stormhad winds greater than hurricane force.

Due to the very strong winds this caused a tremendous amount of power outages. Over inland areas where heavy snow oc-curred the visibility was quite low because of the strong winds blowing the snow around. This storm got its intensity form passing over the warmer ocean waters. After this storm moved away we saw some tran-quil weather for awhile with some milder temperatures.

However, our stormy weather for the month was not over. On Friday March 31st we would see another storm with more snow especially away from coastal areas including Cape Cod & the Islands. Being the end of March, elevation plays a role in snow amounts. The highest snow amounts for this storm occurred over the higher elevations. It’s not unusual to see snow in late March and April. Back in 1997, Boston got 25.4 inches of snow on March 31 into April 1st. Worcester got 33 inches. Around 700,000 people lost power due to the Bliz-zard of 1997.

With the sun angle getting higher in the sky snow does not last long during late March and April. It melts fairly quickly with enough sunshine.

The storm on March 31st had wind, but the winds were not quite as strong as the March 14th storm. The March 31st storm



produced wind gusts of 62 miles per hour at Eat Falmouth on Cape Cod with a 65 mile per hour wind gust at Nantucket. As we are now in April we should see the daily tem-peratures rise as we go through the month.

Also the length of day will continue to increase as we go through April. When the sun is out it feels warm but this can be misleading because in April you can still get snow due to cold air aloft.

Now with the sun getting higher in the sky and stronger you should apply sun-screen if you are going to spend many hours outside due to working or recreation. As I write next month’s article, the recent snow should be all gone. Let’s hope I can talk about some warmer weather when I write next month’s article. Next month we will recap April’s weather and talk about what we can expect during the month of May.

In conclusion, this year March saw colder temperatures for Boston compared to December, January and February. Strange weather!!!

E-Mail your questions for Al Kaprielian at valleypatriot@aol.com

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WORKMENS' COMP

Boxford’s Problems Start and End with Selectmen

A few months ago The Valley Patriot began to investigate the goings on at the Boxford police station.

Rumors about a department out of control because of a police chief who is “mailing it in” motivated us to start requesting documents.

Instead of cooperating with the press and being transparent by eagerly turning over documents and tape recordings, the Town Administrator Alan Benson chose to involve lawyers who, of course, instructed the town to ... obstruct.

They tried to charge the Valley Patriot an exorbitant amount of money for scanner calls, they claimed not to have documents that they had, and when we asked about a troubled dispatcher working for the police dept. we were told that he worked for the communications dept. and the chief had no say over the shenanigans that took place; this included a dispatcher being fired for blowing the whistle to police about another dispatcher’s violent tendencies and physical assaults. The creating of a hostile work environment for everyone involved seemed not to be alarming to any of Boxford’s leaders because the dispatcher, Andrew Ulman, is the son of a former selectman.

The Chief seemed to have a casual attitude about Ulman because the dispatcher wasn’t his legal responsibility. We believe any other police chief in the valley would have acted sooner and been proactive.

DON’T CALL US, WE’LL CALL YOU

While investigating, the Valley Patriot went to the town website to get phone numbers to question members of the Board of Selectmen about all this.

What we found explained a lot.

None of the publicly elected members of the Boxford Board of Selectmen had their phone numbers or emails listed, meaning members of the public have no way of contacting an actual person. Our sources in Boxford say that it was the selectmen themselves who requested no contact information be listed for them.

That is unacceptable and is a symbol of what is wrong in Boxford. It starts and ends with the elected Board of Selectmen.

Boxford officials are not just lacking in transparency, they are a municipal government thriving on secrecy, hiding behind lawyers, and burying information that they were elected to expose.

NICE GUYS FINISH FIRST

Most troubling of all in our investigation was that we found proof a police lieutenant illegally taped a conversation with a member of the public without her knowledge. This member of the public had filed a complaint against a Boxford officer alleging inappropriate conduct and a personal relationship with that officer while he was on duty. The woman lives in North Andover. Lt. Hazlewood interviewed the woman as part of his investigations of her complaint. Oddly, the woman recanted her accusation. According to our sources the audio recording of that conversation was then played for the officer she originally complained about.

Why has Lt. Hazlewood not been held accountable? Where was the leadership when all this was going on? The answer we got was that the Lt. has since retired and is “one of the nicest guys ever.” We are told, he is the guy who helps everyone in town, even neighbors he doesn’t get along with.

We were also told that the matter is “being investigated”, but that mysteriously, the woman who initially lodged, then recanted, her complaint against an officer, has also decided not to press any charges or sue the town of Boxford for illegally recording her in her North Andover home.

Make no mistake about it, a crime was committed here. Maybe more than one. And because Lt. Hazlewood is the “nicest guy in the world” he got a free pass. Maybe that’s the universe paying him back for all the good deeds he legitimately served for the people in town.

But now we have to wonder. What else do people in Boxford, (specifically the selectmen in Boxford) overlook when the people involved are considered “really nice guys”. We’d ask them... but we don’t have their numbers.

Defending Immigrants from Perceived “Racism”

To the Editor:

I’ve read with interest, the onslaught of negative comments on the pages of the Valley Patriot, and on your Facebook feed, regarding the treatment of immigrants in the Merrimack Valley, particularly Lawrence. These racist comments have become more and more aggressive of late, and I must respond. In fact, I’m a little amazed at these negative comments, considering the bulk of your readership, come from immigrant roots here in the valley.

I, myself, am a 4th generation Sicilian immigrant. My great-great-grandparents on both sides came in steerage on little ships from Sicily in the late 1800’s, directly from New York to the great City of Lawrence the ‘Immigrant City’, to work in her mills. My father, whose own father died when he was a child, started off at probably 12 years of age, working in those same mills, as a hand, and rose to the esteemed profession of mechanic, before his death from lung cancer, probably brought on by inhaling wool fiber. Immigrants working in the mills, I’m told, got along, mostly. Everyone was here to work, and work they did. Generations of decent tax paying Americans came from those early, mostly peasant, mill workers.

I, myself, grew up in South Lawrence, a Sicilian kid among mostly Irish families. By 1960-1970, the Irish and the Italian kids got along with each other. I went to their parties, parades, weddings, baptized their kids, and dated their men. Even today, I insist on eating corned beef and cabbage on St. Patty’s Day in honor of my Irish friendships. Our parents didn’t get along so well. My mother wasn’t so keen on my Irish buddies; didn’t trust them. I know for a fact some of my Irish friend’s parents still held a grudge, too. Heck, my own family story included a tale of my Sicilian uncle being stabbed in a knife fight on the duck bridge by the Irish gangs in the 1930’s, and I won’t say he didn’t ask for it! But these grudges were nothing serious, not like today, not like the hatred among the races that we see today...

Of course, we had something back in the 60’s, which is lacking today. We still had jobs and a decent economy around here back then. Our families weren’t fighting over the few remaining jobs at Raytheon and the IRS, and there wasn’t resentment over the lack thereof. We still had Western good paying, plentiful jobs. Our families weren’t squabbling with each other over a few employers, and we weren’t getting resentments over perceived affirmative action hiring. Yes, things were different back then economically, and that difference is critical, and often overlooked. The Merrimack Valley looked a lot different back then, and it wasn’t all about the color of the resident’s skin.

Your readership tends to blame the immigrant. They blame the very same type of individuals as their grandparents were, seeking the very same American Dream. Has your readership forgotten, or never heard stories of their own ancestry living in crowded tenement houses in Lawrence, along with the bedbugs and rats? Have they forgotten or never heard, stories of, or worse, tried to forget, the stories of their own family struggles to be accepted, as immigrants, by America? Are the stories of Nanoo the “bookie” quaint now, versus criminal? Drunken husbands, wife beaters, men that abandoned their children, corruption in City Hall, are these stories funny now, with the passage of time? All these things happened in Lawrence’s history, all perpetrated by white immigrants, all happened more than once.

It is the due course of the City of Immigrants. It did not start today, it will not cease if you dispel your target immigrants tomorrow. It is the ongoing process of new immigrants becoming Americanized in the melting pot that is Lawrence.

Your readership would do better to turn their considerable energy to the lack-luster government who continually lets them down. This government has failed to provide this area with the economic improvement that it had been calling for and desperately needs for a generation. Ask your Federal and State governments to quit outsourcing your manufacturing jobs overseas. Refuse to purchase Walmart goods. Bite the bullet and crease buying Chinese-made items. That would be a constructive use of your readership’s time, rather than turning on the fellowship of Valley residents that live among us and will be part of our future.

Sincerely yours, Teresa Giuffre
Resident—Tower Hill, Lawrence



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\$7K in Scholarships Given at Valley Patriot BASH!

VALLEY PATRIOT/TEAM ZINGALES SCHOLARSHIP

VALLEY PATRIOT/GLTS SCHOLARSHIP

“Six years ago The Valley Patriot was able to raise enough money from the raffle at this event to donate one scholarship for \$100 to one Lawrence High School student. Each year since then, The Valley Patriot has been able to slowly increase the amount of money they give for scholarship and has also increased the number of students receiving scholarship money.”

“This year, seven high school students attending this BASH will walk out of the room with \$1,000 each to further their education. To me, that’s pretty amazing!”

Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan introduced the first scholarship presenters of the evening, Joe Zingales and Rosanna Zingales-Lopez of Team Zingales, RE-MAX who donated \$2,000 for scholarships at this year’s BASH!

“Joey and Rosanna Zingales have been big supporters of The Valley Patriot so, do us a favor and buy a house from these people, they do good things in the community and they are always here to help us at the annual BASH,” Duggan said.

Joe Zingales explained why the two students were chosen for the first Annual Valley Patriot/Team Zingales scholarship.

“We selected two individuals from the community who excelled in their school and in community service. Zingales introduced Chris Sullivan from Central Catholic and Dan Halloran, head of the YMCA as

both students attend Central and donate their time at the YMCA.

SAM LARA (\$1,000) - Sam Lara of Lawrence is currently a senior at Central Catholic High School, is a Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence alumni and captain of the boys varsity basketball and baseball teams at Central Catholic. Laral says that Lawrence and Central Catholic have provided him with a great education and as a result, many doors have been opened for him and he strongly believes every child deserves a good education and he plans to contribute making this happen.

Junielly Vargas is also from Lawrence and currently a senior at Central Catholic High School, and the passionate President for the Mayor’s Health Task Force Lawrence Youth Council. Junielly says she knows that Lawrence and Central have given her an understanding of the true value of education. She is also a product of the Lawrence YMCA’s Adelente Program!

“Junielly is not here tonight but her family is here with us. But Junielly is not with us tonight but the reason exactly the reason she is getting this scholarship,” Sullivan said. Sullivan explained that Junielly was chosen to represent Central Catholic along with five leaders from the school who went to New York to prepare for the Marist day of service. “Junielly is one of the leaders of our community service program.”

Jessica Finnocchiaro of the Greater Lawrence Technical School in Andover has been working with The Valley Patriot BASH committee for the past three years. Finnocchiaro interviews students who apply for a Valley Patriot scholarships, researches their backgrounds, and personally chooses the winner each year.

Finnocchiaro took the microphone at the Valley Patriot BASH and explained why she chose Daniela Marroquin for a \$1,000 scholarship.

“I’m proud to say this is the 3rd annual scholarship from the Valley Patriot to GLTS students and I am really excited tonight to tell you about our 2017 scholarship winner. Her name is Daniela Marroquin.”

“She is the daughter of Ms. Yanes Flor and Mr. Edin Marroquin of Methuen. She has been at the Tech School since 2013, and is graduating from the Dental Assistant career program. Daniela has field placement experience at Tufts University of Dental Medicine through the GLTS Dental Assisting program. She is planning to continue her studies in biology in college. Daniela was accepted at Emmanuel College, Framingham State University, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Merrimack College, Suffolk University, University of Hartford, and U-MASS Boston.

Daniela has a 4.12 GPA and is currently ranked 7th out of a class of 329 students in the Class of 2017.

Daniela is a member of the National Honor Society, has been a four year member of the Varsity Tennis Team, Reggie Leaders, Peer Mediators, the Interact Club and done numerous volunteer activities

Daniela has a part-time job at AMC Theaters in Methuen, and says that Being



able to impact someone’s life by shedding a mere glimpse of hope is why she gives back to my community.”

The Valley Patriot raises money for scholarships from sponsors of the annual BASH. This year’s sponsors are:

Kevin Leach, Laborer’s Union Local 175, Tim Sheehy, Bob Sheehan of Sheehan’s Towing, Joe Dunn, Methuen Firefighters Union Local 1691, EIS, Attorney Paul Lambert, Joey Veil, cemetery services, Tom Saab of Saab Real Estate in Methuen, State Rep. Frank Moran, Hasmukh Rt. 110 Convenience Store, Pridestar Ambulance, Methuen Councilor Jen Kannan, State Rep. Lenny Mirra, Haverhill School Committeeman Scott Wood, Kathleen LaPlante, Northern Process Servers, Register M. Paul Iannuccillo, Jana DiNatale Methuen School. Com., DJ Deeb Methuen School Com., Kenoza Chiropractic, State Senator Bruce Tarr, Former Sen. Steve Panagiotakos, May Long CJUI, Rich Russell, and Rep. Linda Dean Campbell.

Unfunded Mandates Hurt Methuen Taxpayers

Abolish MGL Ch. 40B & Ch. 48 Section 57G

DJ Deeb
METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

There have been many noteworthy stories about the City of Methuen this past month. New contracts have been approved by city officials, the Marijuana dispensaries are on hold, a 40-B housing project is being discussed, preliminary budget planning is taking place, and the school committee voted against televising workshop meetings. To quote Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan, I hope that Methuen residents are now “Paying Attention.”

The Methuen School Committee voted to extend School Superintendent Judy Scannell’s contract for 1 year (until August 31, 2018) with an option to extend for 1 more year in a unanimous vote on Monday night, March 13th. In a show of real professionalism, Superintendent Scannell made it known to the committee that she did not want a raise. This is the 4th year in a row that the School Superintendent has not taken a raise. With the budget crisis that the city faced last year and the anticipated potential shortfall this coming year it is important that our city leaders and city officials lead by example. Judy Scannell is a real class act and leads by example! Superintendent Scannell works well with the entire board and attends practically every extracurricular event happening in the schools. The residents of Methuen are truly fortunate to have a Superintendent as committed as she is.

The mayor recently proposed and the city council approved 5-year contracts for the Police Chief and Fire Chief. Although

Methuen is truly fortunate to have great and committed people in these positions it is my view that anything beyond a standard 3-year contract is excessive. Chief Solomon especially gives his all for our city. He is on call and available 24-7 to respond to residents. We are lucky to have him. But I would have supported a standard 3-year contract with renewal provisions for Chiefs Tim Sheehy and Joe Solomon instead. I am philosophically opposed to awarding 5-year contracts for anyone, including school superintendents.

Although I have heard many criticize the raises contained in these contracts, in the big scheme of things they are actually not excessive when you survey what surrounding communities are paying their chiefs. The Fire Chief received a 9% base pay raise while the Assistant Fire Chief (Bill Barry), who was awarded a 3-year contract, received a 12% base pay raise. With longevity and other benefits built into the new contract, the Fire Chief’s overall pay will increase from \$132,522 to \$193,262. Likewise, the Assistant Fire Chief’s pay with the built-in benefits will increase from \$95,389 to \$151,753. In addition, the Police Chief received a 9.8% raise, but accepted additional responsibilities taking on the role of emergency management director as well. What I found surprising and did not know was that these salaries are legislated by a formula established by the Commonwealth. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 48, Section 57G legislates compensation for Fire Chief and Police Chief. Does this amount to an unfunded mandate? I think so. Why is the State legislating salaries

for local police and fire officials? Now, I am certainly not blaming these individuals for accepting these salary adjustments. Frankly, who, wouldn’t? It should also be noted that the Superintendent’s salary is not legislated by the State. I call upon our State Legislative Delegation to file legislation to repeal Chapter 48, Section 57G thereby permitting local city/town officials to fix the salaries for Police and Fire Chiefs locally at their discretion. I also call upon the mayor and the City Council to work with union leaders through the collective bargaining process to grandfather in longevity for existing city employees and phase out the longevity benefit for any new city employees hired in the future. This will save the city significant sums of money in the long-term.

The last few months have also been busy surrounding the proposed Chapter 40-B apartment complex on Pleasant Valley Street. This project would contain 175 2-3 bedroom apartment units and would certainly create the need for more space in the schools as well as more teachers, police officers, and firefighters to handle the growth in the city population. Under the so-called Affordable Housing law, developers need to just rent or sell just 10% of the total units at below market value for the entire project to qualify under MGL Chapter 40-B ‘Affordable Housing.’ This is a complete scam and always has been. It is yet another unfunded state mandate. I proposed abolishing Chapter 40B as a candidate for State Representative in Draft in 2002 and replacing it with ‘Market-Based Affordable Housing.’ Given recent events, this solution is more relevant today

than ever before. I call upon our State Senator and State Representatives to file and support legislation to repeal Chapter 40-B immediately. The State should not be permitted to allow developers to circumvent local zoning laws in the name of providing “Affordable Housing” at the taxpayers’ expense. In the meantime, I call upon the Zoning Board in Methuen to deny the permit for construction and force the issue with the State.

Finally, I want to again express disappointment and disagreement with the Methuen city council and Mayor Zanni for withdrawing initial letters of support for three companies applying to open medical marijuana dispensaries in the city. The voters have spoken. Marijuana in controlled amounts has been decriminalized in Massachusetts and medical marijuana has been legal since 2012. Why not take advantage of potential tax revenues that could be generated for our city? We should be encouraging, not discouraging, businesses seeking to operate in Methuen. The mayor and members of the Methuen city council should encourage these dispensaries to consider Methuen as an option for operating their businesses. This will generate both jobs and tax revenue for our city.

At our school committee meeting on March 27th, I supported a change in policy proposed by Mayor Zanni and committee member Jana DiNatale that would have required all meetings and workshops of the Methuen school committee to be televised. Currently, only regular meetings are

Auditor Exposes \$193 Million in Illegal Payments by MassHealth

Deficiencies Similar to Previous MassHealth Audit Findings

State Auditor Suzanne M. Bump issued an audit of the behavioral health program at MassHealth, which found that MassHealth paid doctors directly for providing mental health services that should have been paid for by the Massachusetts Behavior Health Partnership (MBHP).

MBHP is paid by MassHealth to manage the coordination of care for mental health services for MassHealth members. MassHealth’s payments over a five year period to doctors for services that should have been paid for by MBHP resulted in improper payments of approximately \$93 million, and another \$100 million in questionable payments for services that should have been included in MBHP’s contract. In the audit, Bump calls on MassHealth to immediately improve its processes to prevent any further improper payments, and determine whether it can recoup any monies paid.

“This audit is the latest example of poor claims administration at MassHealth,” Bump said. “Some of the problems identified stem from MassHealth and its contractors’ different understandings of who

is to pay what; other times MassHealth simply acts contrary to its own rules and standards.”

MassHealth has a contract with MBHP to provide behavioral-health care and substance-abuse care for certain MassHealth members at a fixed monthly fee. During the audit period, July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2015, MassHealth paid MBHP approximately \$2.6 billion. The contract specifies the types of services and procedures that MBHP must provide to members; however, the audit found that while MassHealth made these monthly payments to MBHP to cover the specified services, it also directly paid doctors approximately \$93 million for the same services.

Additionally, the audit found that MassHealth made approximately \$100 million in questionable payments for items such as family therapy sessions, behavioral-health counseling, and psychological testing, which are clearly behavioral health in nature, but were not specifically included in the list of services covered by MassHealth’s contract with MBHP. The audit cites MassHealth regulations that

require that all behavioral health services be paid for by MBHP.

Finally, the audit also found that MassHealth paid claims for behavioral health services provided in emergency rooms, rather than referring these claims to MBHP for payment, as required by MassHealth regulations. The audit notes that this practice creates a financial incentive for MBHP to allow its members to seek behavioral-health care in emergency rooms.

In its response, MassHealth said, among other things, that the Auditor wrongly included in her office’s analysis claims with medical treatment components, which made the agency, and not MBHP, the proper payer. However, Bump noted that those claims were not included in the analysis.

In 2015, an audit from Bump’s office found similar deficiencies in MassHealth’s administration of managed care organizations (MCO) and related contracts. Similar to MBHP, MassHealth pays these MCOs a fixed-fee to cover the costs of a range of medical services for certain

MassHealth members. The 2015 audit found MassHealth unnecessarily paid approximately \$233 million to doctors for services that should have been covered under these MCO contracts. In addition, it found that the agency could have additionally saved up to \$288 million if its MCO contracts had been more specific as to which services were to be paid for by the contract. If all of that audits recommendations changes were made, they could save the program approximately \$10 million annually.

“As leaders in our state seek solutions to address the growth of MassHealth costs, our audits have shown time and again that the program must improve its contracts to ensure that they cover all appropriate costs, and strengthen their claims process to ensure the program only pays for appropriate claims. This would yield significant costs savings and could prevent the need to raise fees or reduce benefits,” Bump said. “Our initial estimates suggest that the recommended changes identified in this audit alone could save the program

BUMP: PAGE 13

Public Safety Related Legislation I am Filing

Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REP. METHUEN, HAVERHILL

My prior service in the U. S. Army has influenced my public service in many ways, very significantly in my understanding of threats, sacrifices and increasing challenges faced by our public safety officers.

This past legislative session I was honored to serve as the Vice-Chair of the Public Safety Committee where I was able to hear meaningful testimony from many first responders. This testimony served as the basis for legislation I am filing this session.

Additional training for police officers responding to mental health crises

Partly because of the closure of inpatient public psychiatric facilities, and a diminishing number of inpatient beds available, approximately 2 million individuals with mental illness are booked

into jails each year. Approximately, 15% of men and 30% of women in our local jails have a serious mental illness.

The legislation I have filed with the Massachusetts National Alliance on Mental Illness would expand the capabilities of the Municipal Police Training Committee that trains new recruits and sets a goal to train 25% of all municipal police officers using the most current methods to more effectively interact with those suffering from mental illness.

This training shall improve safety, both for police officers and for those mentally ill they interact with. Furthermore, the training should also reduce the stress felt by an officer when dealing with someone



undergoing a mental health crisis.

Cancer risks for firefighters

Research continues to confirm what too many families of firefighters already know, which is that they face substantial cancer risks from burning household items and the residue from that left in their protective clothing. As Boston Fire Commissioner Joseph Finn pointed out to the Boston Globe this month, 190 city firefighters have died of cancer since 1990. The unfortunate reason has a lot to do with the “turnout gear” that firefighters must frantically put on before heading to a fire. Toxic chemicals are absorbed by the turnout gear and during a fire, a 5 degree

increase in temperature, leads to a 400% increase in skin absorption. To reduce the cancer risk, it is critical that firefighters wash their turnout gear immediately or, better still, have a second clean set of gear to use if called to another fire while their soiled set is washed.

Unfortunately, industrial grade washers are often too expensive for municipalities to afford. Further, it is not reasonable or practical to expect firefighters to install industrial grade washers and dryers at home either.

First, legislation filed requires that insurers provide and cover cancer screening for firefighters. Secondly, I also filed legislation to have the state implement a bulk purchasing program to reduce procurement costs that will significantly assist municipalities in their purchase of industrial washing machines capable of washing the turnout gear that our firefighters depend on.

Will the Lowell Mayor be Allowed to Snub His Veterans?

John MacDonald
VALLEY PATRIOT LOWELL COLUMNIST

Several months ago, the Lowell Veterans Commission was tasked by the Lowell City Council to find a way to recognize Walter Bayliss. Mr. Bayliss is a Vietnam Veteran, a tireless advocate and volunteer for his fellow veterans and the citizens of Lowell. The Veterans Commission did just that and developed a monthly “Lowell Veteran of the Month Award”, which we named in the honor of Walter Bayliss. Now called... “The Walter Bayliss Lowell Veteran of the Month Award”.

Each month a Lowell Veteran who served his country and made a significant impact on their city, would be selected, voted upon by the council and then quarterly recognized in these chambers, in front of the Lowell City Council and before their fellow citizens. They would receive an award and proclamation of appreciation by the Council.

The Lowell Veterans Commission

selected the following...

For January, we selected WW II Veteran Barney Hovey.

February, Robert J McMahon and Gerald F McMahon.

March, All Veterans who have served the Lowell Police Department

April, All Veterans who have served the Lowell Fire Department.

This prestigious award is a city award, an award for our citizens to bestow upon and recognize the service, sacrifice and life’s accomplishments to the City of Lowell and country. It’s an award given by this Lowell City Council and administration on behalf of its citizens.

It’s an award that the council should take the time for. Take time out of its busy agenda and take a moment and recognize these tremendous people. It’s not an award or honor that should be shuffled off to the Mayor’s reception room; out of sight and out of mind and out of the eye of the public... who cannot make it to the Mayor’s reception room.

This is a Lowell award... it’s not the

Mayor’s Award. The Mayor is but a figurehead of the council. The council should partake in and publicly appreciate the men and woman of the City of Lowell who have given the Council the right to represent them in the public’s chambers.

So some of you might ask, why didn’t you speak to the Mayor, when you heard about the change from the Veterans Commission’s motion to recognize our veterans in Lowell City Council chambers... quarterly? I did. I was told that the mayor didn’t want to take time out of the council’s busy agenda to recognize people. That we instead... would do it in the Mayor’s Reception room, before the council meeting - without TV coverage and without the opportunity for the majority of my fellow Lowellians to appreciate our fine veterans and citizens.

The mayor’s decision is to push veterans to the back room, when it wasn’t too long ago that he wanted to escort Hun Ma-net to these chambers, the son of a vicious Dictator and Oppressor of millions of Cambodians... a dictator who oppressed

and threatened many Cambodian Americans living in the Lowell community.

I might remind Lowell’s governing body that veterans took the time out of their busy schedules... years in some cases to lay down in the mud, the muck and see their buddies’ blood and guts, so that this council would have the freedom to legislate and recognize... or ignore the recipients of the “Walter Bayliss Lowell Veteran of the Month Award”.

As many of our veterans are ignored across this country, the Lowell City Council created and enacted a Commission to help our veterans. The first in the state, I might add... Let’s not take that tremendous gesture and wash it away, by not doing what it right.

So I will be appealing to the elected Lowell City Council, my fellow citizens and neighbors... I will be requesting that they don’t push these worthy veteran award recipients to the shadows. Not on their watch... and I’m certainly not going to allow it on mine.

Town Meeting to Vote on Pot Farm at Osgood Landing

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

North Andover voters will be asked to approve two warrant articles for a marijuana growing and production facility at Osgood Landing on Route 125.

Thomas Lee, a senior partner at Boston based 451 Marketing and a North Andover resident is also a consultant for Orit and Jeff Goldstein, owner of Osgood Landing.

The Valley Patriot sat down with Mr. Lee to discuss the project. Here is what we learned:

If the warrant articles are approved at the May 16th Annual Town Meeting, tax revenues will be circulated back into the town. As a single use facility, this project has the potential of generating over a million dollars in taxes.

There is the Host Agreement for medical marijuana. The medical marijuana license holder must be a non-profit. There is a stipulation in these Host Agreements negotiated by the town – a contract with the town stating that it will pay the town a set fee each year based on the amount of space used to grow the marijuana.

A minimum of \$2.00 per square foot of growth space can be negotiated. Once everything is up and running - with the taxes and the Host Agreement in place – the Town is looking at well over \$3 million dollars collected each year.

- Also:
- The manufacturing plant is expected to create approximately 2,500 jobs at both the entry level and top level positions.
 - The plant for growing cannabis is 1.1 million square feet of prime manufacturing space. It has its own 50 mega watt power plant and a horticultural company from Holland is talking about coming in to install a giant rain water collection system. Between that and the recycling plant, they will be self sustained as far as growing the plants. The only water coming off the town would be for the employees – kitchens and water fountains, etc.
 - There is a giant sewer line that runs through the middle of the property so they won't be impacting the infrastructure of the town at all. That's 155 million gallons that go out of the town.
 - The Goldsteins have no interest in building pot dispensaries.
 - The marijuana will be grown naturally and not be



genetically modified.

- It's important to understand that marijuana is now legal.

Regardless of a person's moral objection, the town has the opportunity to get in on the ground floor of the cannabis growing technology, and a state of the art Research and Development facility as well as manufacturing.

"As a radiation oncologist I have witnessed first-hand the remarkable results that cannabis can have for cancer patients dealing with pain and the effects of cancer treatments," said Jeffrey Goldstein, MD.

"It is a remarkable plant that has over a hundred different compounds, most of which have not been properly studied. We want to build a world-class research facility in North Andover that will collaborate with leading institutions to study and develop potential medical benefits of the cannabis plant."

"As a long-time North Andover resident I am thrilled to have a unique opportunity to bring a new industry to our town that will create jobs and contribute millions of dollars every year to the community," Doctor Goldstein

added.

There will be roughly 1,500 employees when the cultivation is at full capacity (roughly 1.1million sq. ft). The other 1,000 anticipated employees would be associated with senior management and the operations of strategic partners conducting research and development and manufacturing operations on site (ie, a THC breathalyzer).

"Since recreational guidelines haven't been established, it's very difficult to say how recreational growth will, if at all, fit into the plans for the facility. With that said, there are several opportunities for the manufacturing space beyond just medical growth."

"We need to take into account Pharmaceutical R&D and production needs and federally sponsored R&D, all of which may require substantial space. This could actually turn out to be the greatest value, since the grow spaces are being designed to meet the highest standards, i.e. clean rooms that adhere to Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) standards. Further, production space will also be needed for potential clinical trials, etc."

Methuen Fire Chief, Haverhill Cop Granted Officer Tom Duggan Sr. Public Safety Award

Tim Coco & Tom Duggan

Haverhill Police Officer Guy Cooper was among those honored last month during the Valley Patriot newspaper's 13th Anniversary Bash!

Cooper, accompanied by Haverhill Police Chief Alan R. DeNaro received the Officer Tom Duggan Sr. Law Enforcement Award for helping to save a woman who jumped into the Merrimack River last November.

During the award presentation, Essex County Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger introduced Haverhill Chief DeNaro who explained why Officer Cooper won the award.

Officer Cooper was called to the scene of a woman threatening to jump off a bridge into the Merrimack River last year. Upon arrival, the woman jumped into the river before Cooper could reach her.

With the Harbormaster in a boat below, Cooper observed the woman fighting with and assaulting the Harbormaster as he tried to pull her into his boat.

"Observing the difficulty facing Harbormaster Michael Vets, Officer Cooper waded into the frigid waters to assist with getting the victim on the boat and ultimately back on shore and into an awaiting ambulance."

During an appearance before the Haverhill City Council last December, DeNaro praised Cooper and Vets.

"The officers acted as we would want them to act, as we want them to protect us and to be there and they were. And especial-

ly, when it comes to going into the Merrimack in the middle of November, I call that above and beyond. I'm very proud and I'm impressed with the actions of both of these individuals and I felt that it merited notifying the public as well as this council of the caliber of people that we have that protect us, serve us and are out there guarding us on a daily basis."

Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan also presented an Officer Tom Duggan award to Methuen Fire Chief Timothy Sheehy while Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger looks on.

Methuen Fire Chief Timothy Sheehy was also presented with the award for his work helping families displaced by fire last Christmas season. In one instance, out of many stories, Sheehy drove a victim to a shopping center to buy shoes.

The awards are named in honor of Lawrence Police Officer Duggan, who died in the line of duty March 16, 1990—three days after being attacked by two men, one of whom struck him with a metal softball bat. He was 47. Duggan was the father of Valley Patriot Publisher Tom Duggan. Previous winner are: (2013): Wheelabrator's Scott Emerson & Methuen Police Officer Dan O'Connell. (2014) Amesbury Police Officer Jason Kookan & Lawrence Firefighter Manny Gonzalez. (2015) Ret. Woburn Police Officer Bob DiNapoli & Lawrence Deputy Fire Chief Brian Murphy. (2016) Lawrence Police Officer Mike Laliberte & N. Andover Police Sgt. Dan Lanen.



Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan presents Methuen Fire Chief Tim Sheehy who spent his own money to feed fire victims last Christmas.



Haverhill Police Chief DeNaro and Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan presents Haverhill Officer Guy Cooper with the Officer Tom Duggan Sr. Public Safety Award for saving a woman who jumped off a bridge.

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

HELP WANTED: Sr. Electrical Eng'r to support product development for development, design & manufacture of renal care medical equipment & devices. Send resume to HR, NxStage Medical, Inc., 350 Merrimack St, Lawrence, MA 01843.

BASH NOTES:

NOW THAT WAS A BASH!!

This year The Valley Patriot celebrated our thirteenth anniversary with the biggest BASH we have ever thrown. Thanks to our advertisers, BASH donors, and BASH attendees we packed the Firefighters Relief In again with more than 500 people to recognize some really special people. I hope you will take a few minutes to flip through the pages of this month's paper and read their stories of why they received their awards or scholarships.

This year, seven high school students in attendance walked away from this years BASH with \$1,000 each to further their education. The Valley Patriot awarded scholarships to two students from Lawrence High School, one from the Greater Lawrence Technical School, two students from Central Catholic (thanks to a \$2,000 donation from Joe and Rosanna Zingales of Team Zingales Remax), and two \$1,000 scholarships given by the Methuen Police Patrolman's Association and the Methuen Superior Officers Association.

BASH LINE OF THE NIGHT

Weatherman Al Kaprielian got the crowd going by instructing them to say "Good Evening" in his high pitched voice every time someone says "good evening" at the microphone for the rest of the evening. To make sure they got it right he had the left side of the room repeat "Good Evening" and the right side of the room repeat "High Pressure". At one point the audience got it wrong and Kaprielian mumbled to himself "Geesh I feel like I'm back in Derry." The mic picked it up and the crowd roared with laughter.

NOMINATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S VALLEY PATRIOT BASH AWARDS

At the beginning of the night, I took to the microphone and nominated Jana DiNatale for a 1st Amendment Award for next year's BASH. I also nominated Michael Agricola, owner of Salvatore's Italian Restaurant in Lawrence and Joe and Rosanna Zingales of Team Zingales of Team Zingales Remax for a Valley Patriot President's Award. This year Mr. Agricola donated a gourmet meal for our BASH

at the Firefighters Relief's In, saving us enough money to give out one additional scholarship this year. Joe and Rosanna Zingales-Lopez donated \$2,000 total for two scholarships given out this year. If you are a loyal reader of this newspaper I ask you as a personal favor, to patronize our advertisers and our BASH sponsors. They truly make this community a better place and do so at great personal sacrifice.

BASH AWARD WINNERS

Hero Veteran Award: Randy Carter of Veterans Northeast Outreach Center & Gerard MaGuire Veterans Services Officer for North Andover and Boxford.

Officer Tom Duggan Sr. Hero Public Safety Award: Haverhill Police Officer Guy Cooper and Methuen Fire Chief Tim Sheehey.

1st Amendment Award: State Senator Bruce Tarr and Methuen Police Chief Joe Solomon

Editor's Choice Award: Duncan Burns and Cindy Annis.

President's Award: Keith Wlodyka of Daily Dose Cafe and Rick Bellanti of Bell-Aire Music and Entertainment.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

(\$1,000 Each)

Team Zingales Scholarship went to Juneilly Vargas & Sam Lara - Students at Central Catholic and members of the Lawrence YMCA.

The Valley Patriot/Greater Lawrence Tech Scholarship went to Daniel Morroquin. The Methuen Police Patrol Union and Superior Officers Association Scholarships went to Selina Loren DeLeon & Amanda Ellen Mambro.

The Valley Patriot Lawrence High School Alumni Scholarships went to Cristian Lantigua & Leslie Marrero.

BASH ENTERTAINMENT

Thank you to Rick Bellanti of Bell-Aire Music & Entertainment for donating his services and being a member of the BASH committee. Comedian Johnny Joyce, who is a veteran (USN) donated his time to tell some funny stories and will be back again next year with a much bigger role. Melvern Taylor who wrote the song "Paying Attention" for my radio show and then put it on a record always opens the show with the song live and that always sets my night off right!

MTV's Brittany Baldi donated her time this year to help us award scholarships to high school students and gave them advice for success. Hollywood actor Steve

Blackwood, who is also an accomplished jazz singer, donated his time to perform at the beginning of the night with our good friend and sax player Derrick Feole.

The BIG guy of the night was once again our good friend and weatherman Al Kaprielian. It turns out that Kaprielian's father Sorap is a WWII veteran. Our MC Toni Wakester presented Kaprielian with a signed copy of our new book "Heroes in Our Midst, from the Pages of The Valley Patriot".

SPEAKING OF OUR MC

Each year since our first BASH, PuppyGirl Kate Whitney has always been our MC. This year she learned less than a month before the event that she was unable to attend. So, we reached out to a veteran who also works in law enforcement named Toni Wakester to fill in and she did a great job. With almost no prep and not having attended any BASH meetings, she was able to bring grace and class to the party and I speak for the entire BASH committee when I say that when PuppyGirl returns next year we will have a very large role for Toni now that she has survived the trial by fire!

ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF HONORS LAW ENFORCEMENT

I couldn't think of a better person to be our keynote speaker at this year's BASH than newly sworn in Essex County Sheriff Kevin Coppinger. Coppinger gave praise, and a few zings to law enforcement, but really silenced the crowd when he read the first Officer Tom Duggan Public Safety Award Winner of the night as Methuen Fire Chief Tim Sheeny. I hope everyone goes on YouTube and watches his presentation.

THE BASH COMMITTEE

The only reason our annual BASH takes place is because I have a legion of volunteers always dropping in to help out. Among the best of these are those who volunteer for our BASH committee to plan our annual event. They are: Maria Fiato, Chris Eldredge, Brenda Rozzi, Rich Russell, Beverly D'Amico, Kevin Leach, Keith Wlodyka, Rick Bellanti, Dan Selenius, Jen Jones, Beth D'Amato, Denise Donlan, Eric Melanson, Sandra Jean, and honorary member Mr. Brenda Rozzi.

VETERAN TABLES

Each year we allow veterans of any branch to attend the Valley Patriot BASH for free. This year members of the community stepped up and donated the cost of ten tables for veterans to attend. Donating \$300 each for a veteran table were: Stephen Buco of Buco & Sons Gen. Contractors, Karen Montijo, Community Dentists on Essex St. in Lawrence, Katie Cook of Comfort Home Care, Methuen Police Chief Joe Solomon, Jim Rappaport, The Coffee Cann, Cheryl White, Diane O'Gara, Cyndi Rosa Montello, Natasha Young, JT Torres, Martineau's Towing, and Quintana Supply, Newton, NH. THANK YOU for caring for our veterans!!

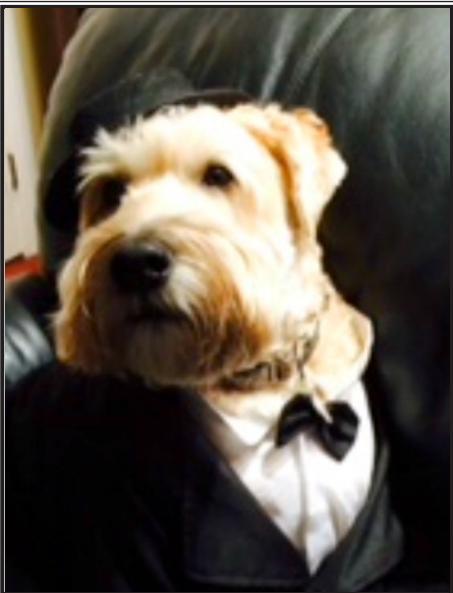
Our Gold Star family tables were sponsored by two anonymous donors.

AROUND THE VALLEY

NECC TO START 2 FREE SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMS

Two, free, grant-funded educational programs designed to train unemployed and under-employed individuals in high-demand manufacturing positions, will be offered through Northern Essex Community College's Center for Corporate and Community Education beginning in May.

Individuals who have graduated from high school or have a high school equivalency, are between the ages of 17 and 29 and lack the education, skills, or experience necessary to obtain a middle or high-skilled job, are eligible for either program. Participants must be able to pass eighth grade math and reading.



FREDDIE SAYS

“Thank You Salvatore’s Restaurant in Lawrence for donating a gourmet dinner for the BASH!” You can thank them for us by dining at Sals!

Freddie also Says
EAT AT THE DAILY DOSE CAFE at PENTUCKET MEDICAL IN LAWRENCE
978-557-8601

Both programs, which are noncredit, are funded by a federal TechHire grant to provide workforce training in.

The Quality Training Program teaches the concepts and skills needed to become a quality assurance or quality control associate. It is a six-week, 120-hour program that will run May 15 through June 22, Mondays through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at NECC's Riverwalk, 360 Merrimack St., Lawrence.

A total of 13 students will be accepted into the quality program. This program will be offered five more times over the next few years.

Students who successfully complete the program will be prepared to sit for an American Society for Quality (ASQ) certification exam. They will be trained to work as an improvement associate, internal auditor, or document control specialist quality inspector.

The Computer Numeric Controlled (CNC) Machining Program will provide both classroom and hands-on experience. The 11-week, 404-hour program is divided into a foundational skills training and technical training. The classroom training will begin May 30 and run through June 23rd, meeting 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at Riverwalk. From June 26 through August 11, students will receive technical training at either Whittier Regional Vocational High School in Haverhill or Greater Lawrence Technical School in Andover from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A total of 24 students will be accepted into the CNC Program.

In addition to be able to sit the certification tests, CNC students will participate in career readiness sessions including resume writing, interviewing skills, industry tours, and a job fair.

Information sessions for both the quality and CNC programs will be offered as follows: CNC: Tuesday, April 25, 6:30 p.m. at Whittier Regional Technical High School, 115 Amesbury Line Road, Haverhill, or Tuesday, May 2, 6:30 p.m. at Greater Lawrence Technical School, 57 River Rd, Andover, MA.

Quality: Thursday, April 27, 3:30 p.m. at Valley Works Career Center, 255 Essex

NOTEBOOK: NEXT PAGE



A few months ago, seventeen people with disabilities began working at jobs they never thought possible.

- Tom Connors, American Training President & CEO



Scan here with your cell-phone QR code reader to read Ashley's story about finding her dream job.

Call us today to find out how you, too, can begin making your dreams come true with American Training. Call Mikaela Reynolds at 978-685-2151, x6806.

It took dedication, compassion, teamwork, caring, and a little **WOW! Magic**, the kind of support you only get at StarWorks of American Training.

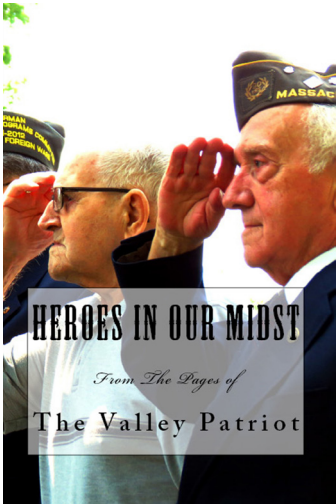


@ATI_WOW @TheOfficialATI • 6 Campanelli Drive, Andover • www.americantraininginc.com

Donating Copies of “Heroes in Our Midst”

This year we reached out to our readers and advertisers and asked them to purchase a copy of “Heroes in Our Midst” to be donated to a local veteran. Because of YOU we were able to give 111 books to local veterans for free!

Rich Russell, Rick Bellanti, Laiza Lizardo St Onge, Tom Duggan, Clarissa Berube, Jim Rappaport, Diane O’Gara, Dave Abdoo, Cassandra Tomkins, HM Inverstigations, Bill Sanford, Dan Strange of Medford Auto School, Sabina Picciotto, Robin Desmet, Diana Lynn, Joan Anderson Wilson, Diana Barabino, Keith Grant, Kenny Tingle, Jose Ramos, Denise Mahoney, Dave Abdoo Cynthia Aziz, Michelle Baillargeon, Linda Peterson, Geoff Diehl & Several Anonymous donors



on Amazon & Barnes and Noble

To buy a book for a veteran email us at valleypatriot@aol.com.

St, Lawrence.

For additional information or to make reservations for any of these sessions, contact Routhier, at krouthier@necc.mass.edu, or 978-659-1217.

FREE HEAD AND NECK CANCER SCREENING AT HOLY FAMILY

Gentry Thatcher, MD, a board certified ENT from New England Ear, Nose, Throat & Facial Plastic Surgery, will be doing free head and neck cancer screenings on Holy Family Hospital’s Methuen campus, located at 70 East St., on Thursday, April 20, 2016, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Ground Floor Outpatient Clinic, Suite G39.

Those who smoke, chew tobacco, consume alcohol, or have a prior history of head and neck cancer, have a greater risk of developing head and neck cancer. Symptoms include a lump, a sore that does not heal, a sore throat that does not go away, difficulty swallowing, and a change or hoarseness in the voice.

According to Dr. Thatcher, the vast majority of head and neck cancers are related to tobacco use, making it one of the most preventable diseases.

To schedule a free screening appointment with Dr. Thatcher, please call Jill or Anne at 978-687-0156, ext. 2101.

*Condensed brief/calendar listing

Free Head and Neck Cancer Screenings with Board Certified Ear, Nose & Throat Physician Gentry Thatcher, MD, on April 20, 2017, 1:30-4:30 PM in the ground floor Outpatient Clinic, Suite G39, at Holy Family Hospital-Methuen, located at 70 East St., Methuen, MA. Appointments required. To schedule your free appointment, please call Jill or Anne at 978-687-0151, ext. 2101.

NORTHEAST MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Schedule Your Audition for the 2017-2018 Concert Season. Saturday, June 10 -- Ipswich High School, 134 High Street, Ipswich, MA

To register for an audition, check the audition requirements for your instrument, or learn more about NMYO, go to www.nmyo.org and click on the Audition page or email auditions@nmyo.org. Feel free to phone us with your questions at (978) 309-9833.

PARKINSON’S DISEASE AWARENESS DAY AT THE STATE HOUSE

State Rep. Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) will host Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Day at the State House on Tuesday, April 25th. DiZoglio recently sponsored a resolution, co-sponsored by more than 40 other legislators from across the Commonwealth, proclaiming the month of April as Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month in Massachusetts. The Representative will present the resolution during the event. The Awareness Day, which is scheduled to begin at 11AM in Room 428 of the State House, is free and open to the public.

\$200M FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

State Representative Frank A. Moran (D-Lawrence) joined his colleagues this week in the Massachusetts House of Representatives to pass legislation that

includes a \$200 million bond authorization for Chapter 90 funding to help municipalities complete road, bridge, and infrastructure improvement projects. In the Seventeenth Essex district, represented by Frank A. Moran in the State House of Representatives, the allocation of this Chapter 90 funding will be:

City of Lawrence \$1,336,872
Town of Andover \$1,364,728
City of Methuen \$1,187,022

The bill also appropriates \$70 million to replace the Registry of Motor Vehicle’s information technology infrastructure.

“In authorizing this Chapter 90 bond, the House of Representatives ensures that essential funding is provided to help cities and towns improve infrastructure statewide, including the Seventeenth Essex district, that necessitates much needed improvement,” State Representative Frank A. Moran (D-Lawrence) said; then Moran continued: “Without this Chapter 90 funding, many structurally vulnerable roads and bridges across the state needing repairs would remain neglected due to cash-strapped municipalities.”

BOSTON AREA RAPE CRISIS CENTER ANNUAL WALK FOR CHANGE

The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center’s 11th annual Walk for Change will take place Sunday, April 23, at DCR’s Artesani Park in Brighton, MA. More than 2,000 people are expected to show up for survivors, making the event the largest gathering in New England raising awareness of sexual violence and supporting survivors. This year’s theme is “The Power of You: Supporting All Survivors.”

Registration for the Walk for Change begins at 8:30 a.m. on April 23 at DCR’s Artesani Park in Brighton, MA. At 10 a.m., the official 2.6-mile Walk along the Charles River will begin.

To register for the 11th annual Walk for Change and to get additional information, please visit the Walk for Change website at barccwalk.org/2017. Registration is \$30 for adults, \$10 for children, and \$5 for dogs (must be on leashes). For those unable to attend the event on April 23, please show your support by donating to BARCC.

ANDOVER, THE CENTER AT PUNCHARD

Refugees in America Workshop
Thursday, April 20th at 1:30pm. \$3 donation (note date change)

In early March, Trump announced a revised ban on refugees from seven Muslim Middle East countries and a continuing 120 day hold on all refugees. To many, these revised actions continue to violate the founding principles and values of America and are currently being challenged in courts. But what do we know about refugees in America? In this workshop, participants will learn about refugees, the bans and discuss policy options with Marcia Drew Hohn, retired director of Public Education Institute at The Immigrant Learning Center in Malden.

Friday Speaker Series: Celebrate Earth

NOTEBOOK: 24



Valley Patriot/Methuen Police Patrolman’s Union Scholarship

This is the first year The Valley Patriot BASH has partnered with the men and women of the Methuen Police Department for a scholarship presentation in the amount of \$1,000 each to two students.

David Gardner, Methuen Police Patrolman’s Union president took the microphone to honor their two scholarship recipients for the evening. Gardner was flanked by Chief Solomon and Officer Mark Whittaker, treasurer of the union.

“I want to thank the Methuen Police Patrolman’s Union. In the last three months we have given out \$5,000 in support to people who have lost their houses due to fire, cops for kids with cancer, methuen boys and girls hockey, the Methuen High scholarship foundation and obviously tonight we are giving out two, \$1,000 scholarships to two deserving seniors.

Our first recipient is a senior at Methuen High School. She works at the Launch Trampoline Park in Methuen. She is involved in Students Helping Other Students, student council where she serves as treasurer, and participates in sports. She has been playing basketball in Methuen for 12 years. She is on a rival basketball club team. She is on the rowing crew team, and she also plays volleyball. She is a Methuen youth basketball coach. She is also a score keeper so the days she’s not coaching she is keeping score. She will be attending Merrimack College and will be studying public education. Our first scholarship recipient tonight is Selina Loren DeLeon.

Our next recipient is a senior at Methuen High School who wants to pursue a career in criminal justice. She is currently an explorer for the Methuen Police Department. She has been a part of the Methuen High School’s JROTC for the past four years. During her junior year she was the consultant for the military ball and is currently a staff member with the rank of first lieutenant. This young lady started playing varsity hockey while she was in eighth grade at the comprehensive grammar school. She will be attending Pittsburg State University next fall as a criminal justice major. Her name is Amanda Ellen Mambro.



Valley Patriot/Lawrence High School Alumni Association Scholarship

It’s amazing what the Valley Patriot has done with this annual BASH scholarship program,” said Chris Eldredge of the Lawrence High School Alumni Association.

Each year The Valley Patriot throws an Anniversary BASH where awards are given to cops, firefighters, veterans, and those who fight for the 1st Amendment. The annual BASH also raises money for scholarships for local high school students.

“Six years ago The Valley Patriot was able to raise enough money from the raffle at this event to donate one scholarship for \$100 to one Lawrence High School student. Each year since then, The Valley Patriot has been able to slowly increase the amount of money they give for scholarships and has also increased the number of students receiving scholarship money.”

“This year, thanks to some very generous sponsors, seven high school students attending this BASH will walk out of the room tonight with \$1,000 each to further their education. To me, that’s pretty amazing!”

Superintendent/Receiver Jeff Riley, Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera, School Committee member Patricia Mariano and Eric Melanson of the Lawrence High Alumni Association were on hand for the

scholarship presentation.

“Cristian Lantigua is ranked 4th in his class and maintains a 4.1 GPA. Cristian is a 3 sport athlete, participating in cross country, in-door track and field and outdoor track and field. Cristian is interested in studying education in college and would like to become a physical education teacher,” Eric Malanson said.

“Cristian has been accepted to Seton Hall University, Bridgewater State University, University of Massachusetts-Lowell, Springfield College, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Fitchburg State University and Merrimack College.”

“Leslie Marrero is ranked 3rd in her class and maintains a 4.2 GPA. Leslie has also been involved with the SEED program through the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) since grade 9 where she has attended classes on the MIT campus on Saturdays. She has also been involved in student government, JROTC and the LHS Theater Guild; all while maintaining part time employment at a local retirement center. Leslie would like to study computer science in college and has been accepted to Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Rochester Polytechnic Institute, Wentworth Institute of Technology and University of Massachusetts-Lowell.

IN YOUR CORNER WITH SENATOR KATY IVES

Early Voting Can Be a Funded Mandate

Katy O'Connor Ives
MASSACHUSETTS STATE SENATOR

Early Voting passed into law in 2014 and this past presidential election was the first in which residents were allowed to vote before Election Day. This is an advantageous concept for many people that want to vote but can't get to the ballot box on one given day. It allows for greater convenience and the potential for an increase in participation. However, State Auditor Suzanne Bump recently released a finding that some provisions of the 2014 law that require Early Voting constitute an unfunded mandate, leaving cities and towns to address these costs without proper compensation.

Currently, absentee voting allows residents to vote early, but they must be absent from the city or town on Election Day or cannot go to the polls because of a physical disability or religious beliefs. Under the new law, voters do not need a specific reason to vote early. They are allowed to cast ballots during a designated twelve day early voting period.

The report indicated that municipalities were responsible for establishing an Early Voting polling location that gives voters privacy when casting their ballot and is staffed appropriately. Eighty percent of the 351 cities and towns surveyed responded to the Auditor's office with estimates that totaled \$719,708.25 in additional costs.

In response to this new unfunded mandate, I have co-sponsored a bill filed by Senator Bruce Tarr, SD2112, "An Act Fairly Funding Early Voting," which would require the Commonwealth to reimburse municipalities for the costs of mandated Early Voting procedures and operations.

It is important for the Commonwealth to reimburse municipalities for the costs of administering Early Voting so that the initiative may continue to be offered to residents state-wide without burdening local budgets. Moreover, I support the further review of all unfunded mandates that impact municipalities and the services they provide to residents.

Along with co-sponsoring SD2112, I have filed S1747, "An Act Relative to Mu-

nicipal Impact Statements" which would allow municipalities to be able to respond to proposed legislation and regulations before they become law in order to assess the financial impacts these mandates might have on cities and towns. A recent review by the Office of the State Auditor's Division of Local Mandates (DLM) found that from 2011 through 2015, 97 statutory provisions became law that had a significant fiscal impact on local communities. However, most of these laws did not meet the explicit definition of an unfunded mandate. DLM identifies when communities have been subjected to an unfunded mandate by the state. But, the Division is only allowed to issue determinations on state actions that meet the limited definition set by Local Mandate Law. The State Auditor did a 5-year statutory fiscal impact report that included legislative recommendations that will enhance DLM's ability to evaluate costs imposed on cities and towns of the Commonwealth by legislation, and allow them to provide their expertise to lawmakers on ways to mitigate the obligations towns and school districts must assume. In addition, they will provide the Division with increased ability to assess the financial impacts of laws and regulations. This bill is one of those legislative recommendations.

For the 2017-2018 legislative session I also filed S.299 "An Act Related to Unfunded Mandates on Public Schools," which would require the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to conduct an analysis of all new state laws, regulations, or administrative directives, including the cost on school districts and employees, the impact they have on learning time in the classroom and the overall impact they have on student achievement. I also filed S.1147 "An Act Creating a Commission to Study the Effects of Unfunded Mandates on Municipalities," which would establish a commission to review unfunded mandates on municipalities.

Determining the true costs of laws and regulations, and deciding who will pay those costs is an important step in the rule-making process.

Lawrence Man Pleads Guilty to Money Laundering, Theft of Public Funds

Leonardo Lara, 36, pleaded guilty yesterday to concealment money laundering, transacting in criminally-derived property, and theft of public funds. U.S. District Court Judge Rya W. Zobel scheduled sentencing for June 28, 2017.

On at least 10 occasions between January and March 2012, Lara converted fraudulent United States Treasury tax refund checks for his own use. Specifically, Lara deposited into his personal checking account at least 10 fraudulent tax refund checks payable in the names of taxpayers in Puerto Rico and elsewhere that resulted from the filing of fraudulent tax returns in tax years 2010 and 2011. Each of the tax refund checks was endorsed with the purported signature of the payee taxpayer and the notation "pay to the order of Leonardo Lara" along with the defendant's signature. The payees of the tax refund checks did not earn the wages reported in the tax returns and were unaware that the tax returns had been filed in their names. Shortly after the tax refund checks cleared, Lara made cash withdrawals from the account. In total, he converted at least \$67,871 in government funds for his own use.

In addition, Lara engaged in money laundering activity relating to the purchase of property. Specifically, on Feb. 12, 2012, Lara purchased a cashier's

check in the amount of \$56,574 with funds withdrawn from an account controlled by him held in the name of JZE LLC. The bank account was funded, at least in part, by structured cash deposits, and the funds withdrawn from the bank had been derived, at least in part, from Lara's theft of public funds. Lara used the cashier's check to purchase property on Riverside Drive in Lawrence, Mass. Lara conducted a similar activity on March 16, 2012 – purchasing a cashier's check for \$60,657 and using it to purchase property on Florence Street in Lawrence. These transactions were designed to conceal the nature and source of the proceeds.

The charge of concealment money laundering provides for a sentence of no greater than 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release, a fine of \$500,000 and forfeiture. The charges of transacting in criminally-derived property and theft of public funds provides for a sentence of no greater than 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release, a fine of \$250,000, forfeiture and restitution. Actual sentences for federal crimes are typically less than the maximum penalties. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda M. Ricci of Weinreb's Narcotics and Money Laundering Unit is prosecuting the case.

To The Valley Patriot: Thank You
for 13 GREAT YEARS!

Your friend,

Linda Dean Campbell



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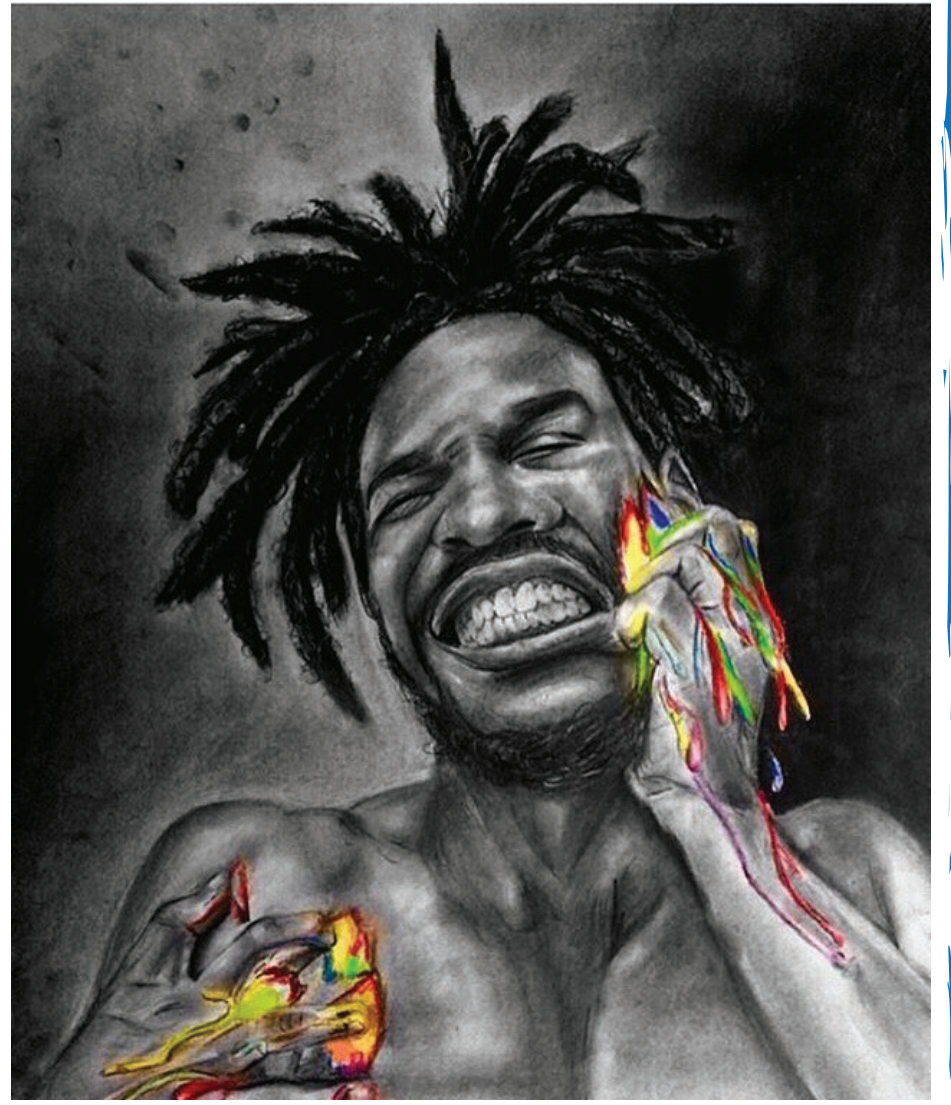
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MA Responsible For New Hampshire’s Drug Problem According To Governor Sununu

Helen Prince

VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

In recent months, New Hampshire (and, in fact, New England in general) has seen something of an increase in drugs-related problems. What the media termed a ‘heroin apocalypse’ was consistently raised as an issue during last year’s elections, and the drugs casualty rates are truly horrifying. Emergency services are buckling under the strain of emergencies brought on by drugs - both crime and healthcare are struggling to deal with the issue. And a great many people are, tragically, dying from overdoses or toxic cocktails of drugs and alcohol. So why on earth is this happening? Well, according to New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu, it’s all the fault of Massachusetts.

Sununu VS Massachusetts

Last Wednesday, Sununu told Boston Herald Radio that the reason his own state was flooding with drugs was due to ‘sanctuary city issues’ across the border. The main target of his ire was the city of Lawrence, which, Sununu claims, has made itself into something of a haven for drug dealers and users alike. Taking aim

at the city’s law enforcement, he claimed that lax policing and a lenient judiciary in Lawrence was allowing the drugs trade to proliferate - and that drugs were, as a consequence, leaking over the border into New Hampshire. Sununu told the radio station that, in Lawrence, “You have undocumented drug dealers that are dealing these drugs, they are getting arrested, they are being given bail by judges ... they’re jumping bail, getting a new ID and they’re back in that same home dealing drugs a week later. It’s an absolutely crazy system.” In Sununu’s view, 85% of the fentanyl (a powerful opioid, considered more potent than heroin) in New Hampshire comes from Massachusetts. Others have taken issue with Sununu’s stance, saying that passing the buck to Massachusetts is a way of avoiding taking responsibility for his own state’s problems. While New Hampshire is extending efforts to treat and prevent addiction, many addicts wishing to recover are still left without any recourse to get clean other than their own (often dangerous) methods.

‘Sanctuary City’

Lawrence, in Massachusetts, is, as

Sununu rightly notes, a ‘Sanctuary City’. A sanctuary city is one which offers a degree of shelter and protection to refugees and illegal immigrants. It does this by not enforcing federal immigration laws unless circumstances absolutely demand that they do so. By singling out Lawrence and its sanctuary city status in this manner, many say that Sununu is unfairly associating immigrants with drugs, and making stereotyped assumptions about the criminal propensities of non-citizens. However, Lawrence does have a well-documented drugs problem, and Sununu is not the only one to link sanctuary cities to the uptick in drugs related crime. President Trump has - to the anger of many - announced the removal of federal grants for sanctuary cities. Most sanctuary cities have vowed to fight against this defunding tactic, but one mayor - Carlos Gimenez, Republican, of Miami-Dade County - has dropped sanctuary status in response. Lawrence shows no signs of abandoning its sanctuary city status, meaning that Sununu could be at loggerheads with them for a while. Sununu, talking tough, vowed to “go over the border” to deal with the problem. Quite

how he’ll do this without authority in Massachusetts remains a matter for inter-state negotiation - and Lawrence, following Sununu’s comments, does not appear to be in a mood to negotiate.

Lawrence’s Response

Lawrence has responded with puzzlement and anger to Sununu’s claims. Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera accused Sununu of massively oversimplifying a complex issue, and expressed disappointment at Sununu’s chosen tactics. “I don’t think he understands what he’s talking about”, Rivera told reporters. Lawrence Police Chief James Fitzpatrick has released a statement saying that his force works very hard on drugs-related crime, and is already working together with forces across New England to get a handle on the problem. Since Sununu’s words on the topic, he has spoken with Mayor Rivera by phone.

During a conversation which Rivera termed ‘productive’, Sununu appears to have revised his opinion of Lawrence law-enforcement - which he now says is ‘working hard’ - but remains determined to instigate a cross-border approach to limit the flow of drugs from MA into NH.

Tip in Methuen Leads to Hefty Drug Charges for Lawrence Man

During the early morning hours of Tuesday, March 28, 2017, officers responded to the Days Inn, 159 Pelham Street, Methuen to investigate a potential crime. As a result of the investigation, Officer Alex Richmond, along with Detective Sergeant Jim Gunter, applied for and were granted a search warrant which resulted in hefty charges on a 33 year old Lawrence man.

The search warrant was to allow officers to search a backpack owned by Kewin Gomez, 33, of Lawrence, MA. Inside the backpack was a passport and social security card belonging to Kewin. Also in the backpack, located next to the passport and social security card, was a bag containing four bags of suspected cocaine weighing 440 grams, two bags of suspected fentanyl weighing 62 grams and one bag of suspected heroin weighing 34 grams.

Kewin Gomez was charged with Major



Trafficking a Class B Substance, Cocaine over 200 grams, Trafficking in Fentanyl and Trafficking in Heroin.

\$3,782.00 in US currency found on Kewin was seized pending civil forfeiture.

At this time the investigation is ongoing.

SJC Upholds Conviction of Former Lantigua Chief of Staff, Lenny Degnan

Former Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua’s Chief of Staff Lenny Degnan was denied an appeal of his conviction for his role in soliciting a bribe from Allied Waste, the company that contracts with the City of Lawrence for trash removal.

Degnan was sentenced to pay a fine of \$10,000 and serve 18 months in the Middleton House of Corrections. As part of his sentence, Degnan is prohibited from running for office again and had to pay a witness fee as well as serve 100 hours of community service upon release.

On Thursday, the Supreme Judicial Court dismissed Degnan’s claims that he did not get a fair trial and that prosecutors committed a “miscarriage of justice”. Degnan claimed as part of his appeal that his conspiracy conviction should be vacated because no other defendants were charged with contributing to that conspiracy.

“The judge properly denied the defendant’s motion for a required finding of not guilty on the ... bribery conviction,” the ruling states.

“None of the five unobjected-to statements the defendant challenges was error, much less the cause of a substantial risk of a miscarriage of justice.”

The court did vacate a lesser charge conviction saying it was “duplicative” as the elements of that solicitation charge were part of the larger crime of bribery.

The ruling also reveals that other defendants in the Lantigua/Degnan conspiracy may still be charged.

In responding to the defense’s suggestion that the jury consider why the defendant was the only one on trial, the



prosecutor’s statement that it “[was] not their time” was a fair response. Nor did the prosecutor misstate evidence of the defendant’s telephone call to Coady. Finally, the evidence supported the prosecutor’s suggested inference, based on the timing of events, that the conspiracy may have formed on the vacation to the Dominican Republic that the defendant took with Lantigua immediately after he won the election and had become friendly with the mayor of Tenares.

You can find the full ruling on valleypatriot.com.

METHUEN: FROM PAGE 5

filmed and televised. Workshops are not recorded. Kudos to Mayor Zanni, committee member DiNatale, and yours truly for supporting televised workshop meetings. Unfortunately, the motion failed 4-3. It is my view that the public should be able to see and access the important discussions and debates that take place at school committee workshops.

Changing subjects, I want to take an opportunity to extend heartfelt congratulations to the Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) at Methuen High School. JROTC is the largest extracurricular organization at Methuen High. There are a total of 223 cadets. At a recent competition in Revere, MA, our cadets returned home with 3 trophies: a first place for JV Leadership, third for Varsity Leadership, and a third place trophy for Academics. Our JROTC was also recently designated as an “Honor Unit With Dis-

tingtion” during the 2016-2017 School Year by the U.S. Department of the Army. The award received by the Methuen High JROTC acknowledges “Exceptional performance in all areas of the Junior ROTC Program.” Kudos to these students!

Remember your influence counts. Use it.

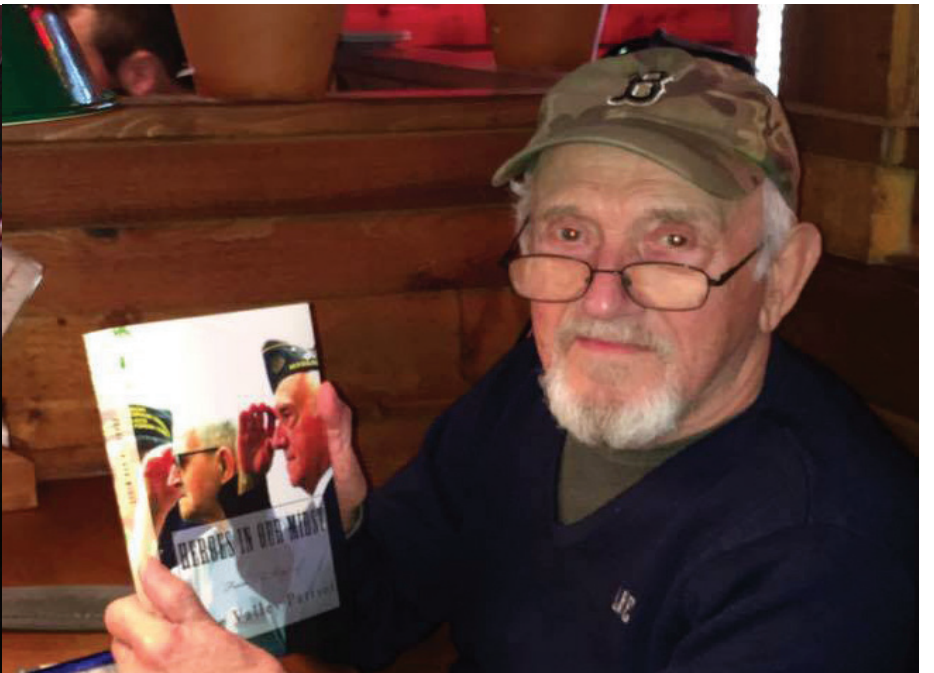
D.J. Deeb is a Methuen resident and member of the Methuen School Committee. Deeb is an Adjunct Professor of History/Government at Bunker Hill Community College and an Adjunct Political Science Instructor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Deeb also serves as Social Studies Department Chair at Notre Dame High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He is the author of Israel, Palestine, and the Quest for Middle East Peace (University Press, 2013) and The Collapse of Middle East Peace (Universe, 2003).

BUMP: FROM PAGE 6

up to \$27 million annually. It’s my hope that today’s audit will assist policymakers in their efforts to control costs in this important program.”

In fiscal year 2016, MassHealth paid healthcare providers \$14.8 billion for

healthcare services for approximately 1.9 million low-and-moderate income individuals. MassHealth is the state’s largest program and accounts for approximately one-third of the state budget.



HEROES IN OUR MIDST: Last month, Texas Roadhouse in Methuen gave a free lunch to our local veterans as they do every month. This month, The Valley Patriot was on hand to give out free copies of “Heroes in Our Midst”, from the pages of The Valley Patriot donated by sponsors of the Valley Patriot’s 13th Anniversary BASH. Pictured in the photo, above left are three “Heroes in Our Midst” highlighted in the book. Left to right are Corporal Ted Eaton, Lenny Enaire, Francis “Gunner” Hayes. Photo above right is Lenny Enaire, who is pictured on the cover of the book, with his free copy donated by Tommy Swarbrick. To donate a book to a local veteran send a check for \$24.99 to The Valley Patriot, 75 Main St., North Andover, MA 01845. Anyone purchasing a book for a veteran can also get one for themselves at \$10.00 off.

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Mr. and Mrs. Lo of Jasmine’s Computer Systems in Salem NH are a gold star family who lost their son Army Staff Sgt. Edmond L. Lo, (23) of Salem, N.H. who died on June 13, 2009 while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom; assigned to the 797th Ordnance Company, 79th Ordnance Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas. Edmund Lo died in Samarra City, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device went off while his explosive ordnance disposal team was acting to neutralize it. The Lo family was in attendance at the BASH thanks to two anonymous donors who paid for their tables.

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Genitals Do Not Define Us

Dani Langevin

VALLEY PATRIOT LESBIAN COLUMNIST

Take a good look at the pictures on the right. When these children go to school or are out in public, what bathroom should they each use? The picture on the left is that of a young trans boy who is now a girl. And, as you may have guessed, the picture on the right is of a young trans girl who is now a boy. Would you want the child on the left to enter a bathroom designated for males or the boy on the right entering one designated for females? People are not defined by their genitals. What defines all of us is not housed between our legs; it is housed between our ears.

We all have our own unique physical features that allow people to recognize us. We also have individual and unique personalities that define what type of person we are. Asking someone what does s/he look like is very different than asking someone what is s/he like. Case in point: As far as my personality goes, I've been told I'm funny, smart, passionate, impatient, stubborn, and driven. Physically, I've been described as short, cute, blond, brown-eyed, and athletic. Never once, however, has anyone ever said, "Oh, and she has a vagina." Neither my physical features nor my personality were choices of mine. They were both biologically chosen for me. I've tried to be patient. It just makes me more impatient. I've tried to be less driven because it becomes overwhelming, but when I set a goal or see something that needs to be done, I can't ignore it. I've even tried being straight, but that came to a heartbreaking end. My brain is wired in a way that is unique to me just as one side of my mouth is longer than the other and I have a birthmark on the right side of my face. New studies are showing that transgendered people are more biologically defined by the makeup of their brains rather than their genitalia, i.e. gender identity vs. sexual orientation.

Katherine J. Wu a graduate student at Harvard University who is pursuing molecular and genetic research in medical microbiology says, "Transgender identity is independent of sexual orientation." She goes on to discuss research that's been conducted within the past twenty years by independent research teams studying the brains of transgendered people. "They examined a region of the brain called the bed nucleus of the stria terminalis (BSTc) in trans- and cisgender (heterosexual) men and women. The BSTc functions in anxiety, but is, on average, twice as large and twice as densely populated with cells in men compared to women." The research teams discovered the same thing: the brains of transgender males (born biologically female) function more like heterosexual men's brains and the brains of transgender females (born biologically male) function more like heterosexual women's brains. "Male-to-female transgender women had a BSTc more closely resembling that of cisgender women than men in both size and cell density, and that female-to-male transgender men had BSTcs resembling cisgender men."

To put it more simply, it is the brain that determines gender identity not a penis or vagina, not even chromosomes. Cisgender men and female-to-male transgender brains function like males. They think



PHOTOGRAPHS BY SARAH WONG

like males, identify as males, and act like males because, biologically speaking, they are males. They're brain proves it. It is the same for cisgender women and male-to-female transgender brains. They are female because that's how they are wired.

Getting back to those children in the pictures. It is estimated that there are 1.4 million transgender people in the U.S. alone. With Trump's new executive order that reverses protection for them when it comes to bathrooms, we are now going to have 1.4 million people being forced to use bathrooms for the sexual orientation that they don't think, feel, or even look like. In essence, that little girl on the top is going to have to go into the boy's room at school and the men's room in public places and the little boy on the bottom will be forced to go into the girl's room at school and women's rooms in public.

People cry wolf claiming this will increase sexual assault and give license to sexual predators. There is no statistical evidence of sexual assault by a transgender person in a bathroom-none! However, 70% of the transgender population has reported that they have been discriminated or assaulted when having to go into the bathroom of the sex that they do not identify. Take another good look at those children in the pictures again. If they were yours, where would you want them to go to the bathroom? Before you armchair quarterback or snap judge, educate yourself. Your ignorance could be incredibly damaging.



Dani Langevin is a teacher and has a Bachelors in Fine Art and Masters in Education. She has written four young adult novels, one of which is self-published. You can email Dani at dblankgevin@aol.com

Beneath the Surface

The Real Name of Modern Feminism

Paul Murano

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Modern feminism is a misnomer. It is really masculinism. This is evident from its major dogmas: be like men; do what men do; sin like men sin; and especially repress or exploit all that is uniquely female. This modern, or new wave feminism, springing from 1960s protest culture, stands in direct opposition to the first-wave feminist movement of the 19th and early 20th centuries. From Susan B. Anthony to Alice Paul, first-wave feminists actually lifted up femininity and demanded that women as women be treated with fundamental dignity and respect. They were staunchly pro-woman, which by extension meant they were staunchly pro-life, pro-family, and pro-children.

A good point was recently made by Andrea Tantoros, author of the new book, "Tied Up In Knots: How Getting What We Wanted Made Women Miserable." During an interview on the Dennis Prager radio show, Tantoros mentioned two figures that have deeply influenced contemporary feminism: Gloria Steinem and Helen Gurly Brown. It is interesting to observe how Steinem and Brown represented money and sex respectively, or more precisely financial independence and objectification of women. These second wave feminists did not seek to extol the beauty and dignity of womanhood, but rather sought equality with men by becoming more like them. Unlike the first wave, this was an "if you can't beat them, join them" strategy.

Steinem's message in a nutshell was that women can do anything men can do, and do not need men. She's the one who came up with the slogan, "A woman needs a man like fish needs a bicycle." Its message to women is to abandon your feminine nature, manipulate your fertility, and compete with men in the workplace to be financially independent of them. Helen Gurly Brown, on the other hand, was the editor of Cosmopolitan Magazine and wrote the controversial book, "Sex and the Single Girl." Her message to women was: "Use your body to get what you want - there's power in sex and you hold the cards." Traditionally, men depended on women's virtue to put the brakes on premarital sexual activity; and to be worthy of her affections he would have to become virtuous himself. The influence of Gurly Brown and "the pill" radically changed that dynamic between the sexes.

The double message of modern feminism – become independent of men and use your body to attain power over them – eroded authentic femininity, i.e. a woman's true nature, and left her with two unnatural options: become more like men or more like whores. The media has chosen both. Women are portrayed in the media either as tough ambition-driven go-getters or as half-naked seductive sex kittens. Often they are portrayed as both combined. It's no wonder so many young women today are confused and dissatisfied. Militating against one's nature never leads to fulfillment. As a result, men have also become confused and

dissatisfied: They have lost sight of how to treat women, and their masculine instinct is dulled – the instinct to lead, protect, and provide no longer fits the narrative. No longer do men aspire to honor and cherish the beauty, mystery, and innocence of authentic womanhood, but rather have come to see women more as sex objects who need no commitment. In short, the de-feminization of women has, in turn, emasculated men.

The delicate balance in the dynamic interplay of the masculine and feminine natures of humanity has all but disappeared. The result is mass confusion for Gen Xers and Millennials. The attributes that both sexes find irresistibly attractive in each other have been relegated to old movies or the "super-religious". Someone who is comfortable in their own skin, respectful of the opposite sex, and values the unique and sacred character of marriage is a very rare find today. The bar has been lowered greatly as a result of radical feminism – and both sexes are the losers.

One thing both radical wings of contemporary second-wave "feminism" have in common – i.e. the Steinem masculinists and the Brown whorists – is the foundation upon which they depend: contraception. Neither would have had a chance at overthrowing authentic femininity without it. By manipulating the truth of a woman's body ecology to act more like a man's via filling her with toxic chemical pollutants that make her infertile at will, contemporary "feminism" seeks not to liberate women from injustice (as the original feminists sought), but to liberate women from womanhood.

It's time to recognize the goods of womanliness as equal in dignity to the goods of manliness, and to stop pretending there is no real difference. Acting as if women are defective inferior men who must "prove themselves equal" by becoming more like them, which is the subtle message of radical feminism, will never bring about harmony between the sexes. Opposites attract. The present state of our culture is so conditioned by the onslaught of 50 years of false feminism that it does not yet have the self-awareness to overthrow its two counterfeits to authentic womanhood. Until that occurs, men will lack motivation to regain their manhood, and the complementary harmony and tranquility natural to sexual love will remain elusive to many.



Paul Murano teaches philosophy at Rivier University and North Shore Community College, and is talk radio host of Beneath the Surface on WCAP, Mondays 10-11pm (podcasts at facebook.com/fellowtruthseekers).

Paul also founded of Heartbeat Pregnancy Help in Burlington, is a singer-songwriter-musician, and holds masters degrees in philosophy and theology, and a doctorate in marital theology. E-mail Paul at PJDM@aol.com

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You can read Previous columns by Dani Langevin at valleypatriot.com



State Senator, Police Chief Win 1st Amendment Award

Each year the Valley Patriot gives out two awards to people who fight for a free press, free speech, and public transparency in government. State Representative Lenny Mirra joined The Valley Patriot at the 13th Anniversary BASH last month to present the first of the night, 1st Amendment Award.

“To get a 1st Amendment award from The Valley Patriot is quite an honor,” Mirra said at the microphone to a crowd of over 500 people at the Relief’s In in Lawrence.

“Past winners of this award include State Senator Ives, Lottery Commissioner Mike Sweeney, State Auditor Suzanne Bump, State Reps. Jim Lyons, Rep. Diana DiZoglio, and Dr. Bharani who is here tonight. But this year it’s special because our state has a new public records law and the Valley Patriot had a little something to do with that.”

“It was Tom Duggan of the Valley Patriot who went out and he drafted a bill to change the state’s public records laws after learning there was no penalty for officials who refuse to turn over public documents. He submitted it through Senator Ives and Rep. DiZoglio, and he worked with Democrats and Republicans to get the law passed. A few months ago Governor Baker signed the bill and it is now the State’s new Public Records Law.

So this award is a really high honor and I’m so glad Tom asked me to do this because out first winner tonight is a strong advocate of transparency in government. He lobbied hard for Tommy’s bill, he fought for it behind the scenes, he worked with his colleagues, he kept Tommy up to date on proposed changes, and he was there to vote YES when the bill hit the



senate. Our first award winner of the night for The Valley Patriot’s 1st Amendment Award goes to State Senator Bruce Tarr.

Tom Duggan then took the microphone to explain why Methuen Police Chief Joe Solomon was receiving the second 1st Amendment award for 2017.

“You know it’s almost impossible for a police officer much less a police chief to even qualify for a first Amendment Award. By their very nature police officers and chiefs are trained not to tell the public too much. I mean, love Lawrence Police Chief Jimmy Fitzpatrick but getting him to tell you what time it is, is like talking to a wall. And you know I love Haverhill Chief DeNaro who is here tonight but he doesn’t even broadcast his radio calls on the public scanner.”

“So, it’s really unusual for a cop to qualify for this award. But, when there was a threat of a shooting at a Methuen school, Chief Solomon told the public what was going on while the Methuen Superintendent of Schools was trying to bury the facts of what was going on. When police officers in Boston opposed body cameras for fear it would catch their officers doing bad things, Chief Solomon embraced it and said he WANTS the public to see if his officers are doing something wrong. He issues press releases and holds press conferences whenever something happens and unlike the other chiefs in the area he actually answers questions from the press without the political double talk.”

Chief Solomon addressed the crowd to say ‘thank you’ and urged his fellow chiefs and police officers to be more transparent and reminded them that they work for the public.”

Tumult in Boston’s Jewish Community

Dr. Charles Jacobs
PRESIDENT, AMERICANS
FOR PEACE & TOLERANCE

It is not surprising to read that American society is deeply and emotionally divided over politics and culture. (How was your Thanksgiving family dinner?) It therefore should not surprise anyone that this divide is being played out in the Jewish community as well – and more fiercely than you might think. There’s an old saying: “Jews are just like everyone else – only more so.”

For years, many of my non-Jewish friends have been scratching their heads over the liberal, and sometimes far-left political leanings and predilections of their Jewish friends. How could so many have voted for Obama seeing that he was a fan of the Muslim world, humiliated Israeli Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu, and betrayed the Jewish state at the UN? Why are Jews so critical of Israel? Why are they Democrats, even now when the Democratic Party has as its number two man, Keith Ellison, who in his youth was a Louis Farrakhan groupie, and who still attends meetings with radical Islamists? What’s with the Jews? They seem otherwise quite intelligent.

Actually, if people were paying attention to the local Boston Jewish community, there might be even more head shaking. My Jewish friends and I have been batting our heads against the wall for quite some time. Recently, it’s gotten much worse:

(1) The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), an umbrella group representing many of the establishment Jewish organizations in the Boston area, is leading a lobbying effort to import Syrian Muslim refugees, every one of whom attended the Syrian government-run compulsory school system where they were taught to hate Jews (I’ve published the research on this) – and who very likely agree with the rest of the Muslim world that to give women and gays equal rights is sinful. The JCRC won’t even consider asking the Feds to inquire what the newcomers feel about Jewish folk.

(2) The JCRC reassured the Jewish community that the Newton high school curricula is not full of biased “lessons” against Israel, when it clearly is. (See for yourself: google indoctrination@newtonhigh.)

(3) The Boston Globe gleefully reported – on the front page -- that the JCRC led Jewish community members to a love-fest at the anti-Semitic, radical mosque in Roxbury.

This is NOT Fake News! Things like this are happening all around the country. But there is a growing resistance at the grass roots level to this failed leadership.

Here’s a glimmer: On the occasion of the announcement that the foremost Jewish leader in Boston is retiring, the Boston Jewish Advocate published three articles severely critical

of his leadership. This was stunning and unexpected, but a definite sign of grumblings in the grass roots about uber-liberal blindness leading to a failure to tackle real problems, like anti-Semitism coming from the radical left and radical Muslims that we see on American campuses and throughout Europe. (Europe’s Jews are being driven off the continent by the same sort of folks that the JCRC wants to import to Boston!)

The piece I sent to the Advocate (below) was the least aggressive of the three complaints.

Stay tuned, this may get interesting. A Peace-time Leader in a Time of Conflict Barry Schrage’s retirement announcement is an important milestone for the Boston Jewish community. His long tenure is nationally recognized for innovation in Jewish education and generosity to those in need. However, his legacy regarding the future safety of the Boston Jewish community remains controversial, as evidenced by the recent Boston Globe report (3/24/17) of dreamy Jewish leaders here -- including the JCRC -- embracing leaders of the radical Islamic Society of Boston mosque.

Barry has not honestly faced the threat to Jews of radical Islam in New England, though he has known -- as a result of the bullying lawsuit against the David Project and other Boston Jews by the ISB -- that the Boston’s mosque’s founders, owners and operators are radical Islamists, connected to the Muslim Brotherhood, who preach Jew-hatred, who teach that gays and apostates should be killed, and who have instructed Muslim men on how to beat their wives. Barry has seen all the documented proof of these things along with the curriculum of hate that was used by ISB leaders. (As by the way, did the “Spotlight Team” of the Boston Globe.)

Barry understood that he could not tell the Jews of Boston what he knew about the growing base of radical Islamists here without risking the donations to the CJP from his progressive donors who believe that speaking honestly about radical Islam is “Islamophobic,” that “silence is the best policy” when dealing with a perceived vulnerable minority, and that perhaps if we show that we love them, they will reject crazy Islamist ideology and come to like us.

Barry was a good leader for a community secure in its position in American society, but times are changing, and the position of American Jewry is less and less politically secure. We can only hope that Barry’s successor will have the courage to face the future with eyes wide open and resist the pressure from progressive Jews who prefer to seduce themselves with beautiful fantasies rather than deal with ugly truths.

Charles Jacobs, President
Americans for Peace and Tolerance

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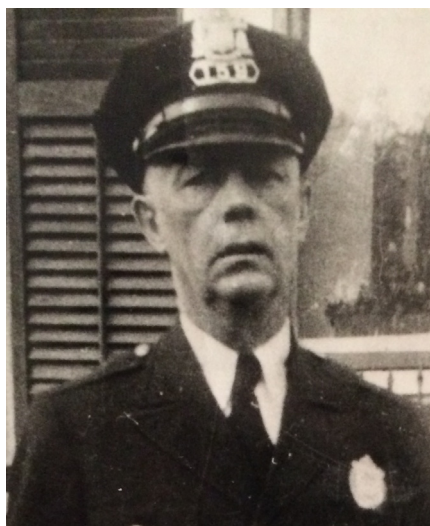
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Lawrence Cop Finally Honored After 67 Years

Last month the Valley Patriot celebrated The 13th Anniversary BASH with a special honor for the family of a police officer who died in the line of duty in 1950.

"We have something special for you tonight. Last month we ran a front page story about a Lawrence Police Officer, Jeremiah O'Connor, who died of a heart attack in 1950 while making an arrest," Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan told the crowded Firefighters Relief's In, shortly after giving out the Officer Tom Duggan Awards.

"Until now we had always remembered the sacrifices of two Lawrence cops who died in the line of duty; Officer Thomas Duggan, Sr., who was beaten with a baseball bat in 1990; and Peter Manning who was hit by a drunk driver in 1954."



Lawrence Police Officer Jeremiah O'Connor (1950)

"But, now we have found that another officer died in 1950 during an arrest and he has never been honored by the city of Lawrence. Tonight, we are going to rectify that," Duggan continued.

"The most amazing part of this story, and I couldn't make this up if I tried, is that the great grandson of that officer who died in 1950, is himself a Lawrence Police Officer and he is here tonight."

Duggan introduced Justin Crow the facilities manager of the Lawrence Police Station who did the research and discovered the line of duty death.

"One of the things that bothered me about this story when I was researching it, was that Officer Jeremiah O'Connor had made an arrest and was struggling to



PHOTO: CINDY DRIVER

Justin Crow, Facilities Manager for the Lawrence Police Station, Lawrence Police Officer Frank Daly, (Officer Jeremiah O'Connor's great-grandson), Lawrence Police Chief Fitzpatrick, Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera (presenting a citation) and the Methuen Police Honor Guard.

get to his call box to make a call into the station. That call never got made. So, I thought it fitting to do a last call for Officer Jeremiah O'Connor."

Crow then used a walkie talkie to call into the Lawrence Police Station for a last call over the public police frequency as his great grandson, Lawrence Police Officer Frank Daly looked on.

Amid walkie talkie static, Crow cleared radio traffic and called in to Officer Mike Simard at the station (who is also a veteran).

"Sergeant Mike Simard come in for a last call for Officer Jeremiah O'Connor," Crow called over the radio."

O'Connor's badge number was #11.

"Lawrence to car 11," came a voice over the police radio's public frequency while more than 600 people looked on in complete silence.

"Lawrence to car 11..." sniffles could be heard in the crowd.

"Lawrence to car 11, Officer Jeremiah O'Connor Come in..."

Officer Simard's voice chilled the crowd. After another pause that seemed like it lasted forever, Officer Simard gave

last call.

"No response for Officer O'Connor end of watch ... 11-14-1950 3:12pm ... died in the line of duty ... thank you for your dedication and service to the citizens of Lawrence MA ... and godspeed!"

O'Connor's great-grandson Officer

Frank Daly thanked Crow and Duggan calling it "amazing" and wiped away a tear as family and friends took photos.

Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera presented Officer Daly with a citation from the City of Lawrence honoring the service of Officer Jeremiah O'Connor. Lawrence Police Chief Fitzpatrick and Justine Crow then presented Daly with a plaque engraved with a



Lawrence Police Badge encrypted as the number #11.

Two of Officer O'Connor's daughters are still alive and could not attend the event. They are Margaret "Peggy" Pinto (88) of Methuen and Dorothy Bosketti of Exeter, NH (94).

O'Connor's son, Ray was a Lawrence Police Officer who walked his father's beat on Franklin St. after being sworn in. He retired in 1969.

To see video of the event visit us on YouTube or valleypatriot.com



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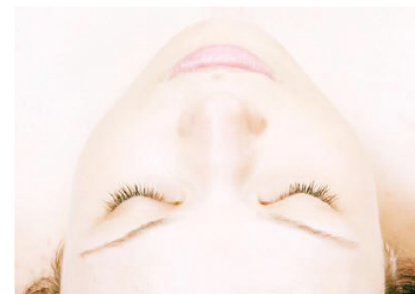
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MA Medical Society Publicly Supports Foreign Muslims But Not Mass. Doctors

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD, PhD
MEDICAL CORRUPTION COLUMNIST

Recently in response to an Executive Order from President Trump which sought to delay by 3 months the entry of citizens from 7 countries singled out by President Obama, the Massachusetts Medical Society issued an opposing press release and all but joined with Mass. Attorney General Maura Healey in the Anti-Trump Resistance.

Said MMS President Dr James Gessner “When physicians are targeted based on their nation of origin, it has the potential to stifle innovative medical research, hinder patient access to care, and violate our fundamental commitment to all patients. The MMS is proud to support physicians of all backgrounds who share a commitment to improving lives.”

The Society of course was perfectly within its rights to do so. But it stuck out like a sore thumb to me because the Society has never ever issued a press release in support of local doctors who stood up for their patients and the standards of their profession only to be crushed by the Massachusetts Board of Medicine in retaliation.

Four years ago I emailed the then President Dr. Aghababian to ask him what the Society did to help whistleblower doctors who were being crushed by the Board in retaliation. Dr. Aghababian wrote back that such things did not happen here.

Fri, Nov 16, 2012 at 8:53 AM
Richard.Aghababian@umassmed.edu
“I am not aware of any such cases in MASS. RA”

So I emailed current President Dr. Gessner requesting him to issue a press release in support of Dr. Sheldon Schwartz who blew the whistle at Arbour Hospital and is being crushed by the State Medical Board, as we speak.

After all, if the Society can issue a press release in support of Muslims who are still outside this country and whose visas would be delayed by 3 months, it can very well issue one in support of Dr. Schwartz, who has been here for 20 years, has a public track record of upholding the highest standards of the medical profession, and has been a loyal member of the Society to boot.

I wrote: “It does not escape anyone’s attention that the MMS has issued press releases in favor of foreigners but has never stood up to protect deserving local physicians from the state medical board, specifically whistleblowers such as Dr. Sheldon Schwartz who is facing severe retaliation

from UHS’ Arbour Hospital via the institutionally corrupt

State Medical Board. Why is there an MMS press release about foreign Muslims but not about Dr. Schwartz?

I can never forget a previous MMS President denying that whistleblower retaliation even exists here in Massachusetts. (pasted in below)

And then there is the ongoing travesty involving poor Dr. Nadolny where the board is refusing to return his license despite a total smack-down of the board by the DALA magistrate.

See <http://valleypatriot.com/state-med-board-suspended-dr-just-to-make-nice-with-charlie-baker/>

Why is there an MMS press release about foreign Muslims but not about Dr. Nadolny?”

Dr. Gessner eventually did email me back. “Please be aware that we share your concern for our fellow physicians and that we are actively engaged in advocacy with the Board throughout the year on a wide variety of matters that affect physicians and the practice of medicine.

MMS, however, is not advised of every case concerning an individual physician that goes before the Board and many cases are subject to executive sessions. With regard to individual physicians, who are generally represented by legal counsel, we would not consider involvement in any proceedings before the Board without a request from the individual physician.”

His email, clearly drafted by a lawyer for the Society and not an email one doctor writes to another, totally avoided the issue of a press release by falsely claiming I had asked the Society to intervene in individual legal proceedings before the Board.

No real doctor would have written this. But the message is clear. The Massachusetts Medical Society fully supports the local corrupt swamp and totally refuses to issue even a press release in support of Dr. Schwartz and other superb caring physicians presently being crushed by the reptiles in the institutionally corrupt swamp called the Board of Registration in Medicine.

At his first Address to the Joint Session of Congress, President Trump publicly again committed to “drain the swamp of government corruption.”

The Massachusetts Medical Society has made as clear a declaration as can be that it is opposed to this effort. No wonder the Society, Maura Healey and Charlie Baker are such good friends.

Robin’s Kitty Corner

Age is Just a Number

Robin Desmet
VALLEY PATRIOT KITTY COLUMNIST

I can’t walk by Wheezy’s cage without opening the door and showing him some love. He looks up as if to say “you again” and dutifully walks over when you approach his cage. When you start patting him he responds instantly with purrs and head butts. He is a gentle, affectionate cat that clearly loves attention. Wheezy currently resides at Nevins Farm in Methuen and he is one of a handful of senior cats that are available for adoption.

Along with Wheezy, cats like Milo, Oreo and Sierra (age 15, 10, 11 and 10 respectively) will remain at Nevins Farm until the day that they capture someone’s heart and get to go home. It is not unusual these days to see older cats like these at the shelter. Last year alone, 448 senior cats found homes through the MSPCA. Contrary to popular belief, older cats like Wheezy are not euthanized when they are brought to the shelter.

Due to low cost spay/neuter programs for owned and free roaming cats, there are actually fewer cats flowing into the MSPCA these days. Since 2011, the number of cats surrendered to the shelter has decreased by over 50%. Because of these declining numbers, there is more room for adult cats and older cats, and with an adoption rate of over 90%, these older cats have a better chance of finding new homes than in the past.

When I see a cat in the adoption center that is 10 or 11 years old labeled as “Senior” I have to chuckle. My beautiful Charlie cat that I adopted in my twenties lived to be 23 years old. People would always ask me how old he was because he looked old to them. He never looked old to me. Luckily for the senior cats up for adoption, I am not the only one who sees the beauty in these more mature cats. There are people who will come to the shelter specifically looking for an older cat, or the cat that has been at the shelter the longest. They know the lure of the kitten, but they also know the advantages to adopting an older cat.

Kittens need entertainment, excitement, and stimulation. They get into everything. They need to be supervised and trained. Older cats tend to be less interested in mayhem. They are done shredding the toilet paper and batting at your eyelashes



when you’re sleeping. They know what the scratching post is for. They like naps.

With older cats, what you see is what you get. You know how big the cat is going to get and how much grooming it is going to need. The personality of an older cat is already developed. You know if the cat is a lap cat or an aloof cat. You know if the cat gets along with dogs or kids, or if it doesn’t.

I see the beauty in cats of all ages. I do think that kittens work great in some households and older cats work better in others. If you are thinking about adoption, consider all of your options. We all love kittens, but does an older cat make more sense for your household? Take a look at the adult cats and the senior cats--one of them, like Wheezy, might just steal your heart.

You can email Robin at robinjd@comcast.net



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The Dominoes

Cindy Annis
VALLEY PATRIOT VINYL COLUMNIST

The Dominoes group of the 1950’s was not the same group as Derek and the Dominos. They would come a little later in time. This group, The Dominos, were formed by Billy Ward and Rose Marks. This group helped get the careers of two of its members off and flying. But, let’s talk a bit about Ward and Marks.

Billy Ward’s birth name was Robert L. Williams. He was born September 19, 1921 in Savannah, Georgia. He died 81 years later in Inglewood, California. He had a couple of brothers, and was a little musical prodigy, winning awards for writing at a young age of 14. He was in the military and sang with the Coast Guard Artillery Choir. He studied music in Chicago, and in New York at Julliard’s. He also did some writing and arranging on Broadway, and that’s where he met Rose Marks, who quickly became his business and songwriter partner.

They wanted to start a group including some of the students Ward coached in vocals. They hoped to get into the new type of music called Doo-Wop. The original membership included Clyde McPhatter, lead tenor; Charlie White, tenor; Joe Lamont, baritone; and Bill Brown singing bass. Billy Ward would be their pianist and arranger. They sounded good together and after hitting it big at the Apollo Theater, and on the Arthur Godfrey show in 1950, they were mentioned to Ralph Bass of Federal Records. At that point, they were called The Ques. Once they signed with Federal Records, they changed their name to The Dominoes.

Clyde McPhatter sang lead for the group. Billy Ward saw him win a talent show at the Apollo Theatre and asked him to join his start-up group.

Clyde was born, Clyde Lensley McPhatter in Durham, North Carolina, on November 15, 1932. He died about 39 years later. He sang with The Mount Lebanon Singers before he joined The

Dominoes. Later, of course, he would start his own group, The Drifters. The group’s career was off! “Do Something for Me,” was the group’s first single with Clyde on lead vocals. The song did very well, charting the R&B Charts at #6 in 1951. Their next song didn’t fare so well, but they came right back with “Sixty Minute Man.” The words to this song really pushed the limits of what was allowed on the radio. Maybe that’s why it hit #1 on the R&B charts, or maybe it appealed to as many whites as black listeners. It was also one of the first “cross-over” songs. It would later be discussed in the argument about the first rock & roll song!

The group toured all over the country and was being touted as one of the best R&B groups of the times. But not all shines in the music world. Ward’s tough discipline and crediting threw waves throughout the group. Most in the music world knew that if Ward wanted something done a certain way, you’d better do it. He would financially penalize a group member if they failed to comply with one thing or another. McPhatter said when the group was at its height and everybody knew their songs, he could sometimes not even afford a Coca-Cola. Ward paid them \$100 dollars a week, which wasn’t that bad, but then he would charge them taxes, food, and hotel bills, not to mention those little fines for not toeing the line. Many times, Ward would say the lead sing was Clyde Ward. People were thinking that Ward was doing the singing, or that Clyde was Ward’s little brother, or something.

The shockwaves continued, and White and Brown quit the group. All this in 1951. They left and formed the group, “The Checkers.” David McNeil and James Van Loan came on board to replace them. The newly added to group would have more success in 1952 with “Have Mercy Baby.” This song stayed on top of the R&B for ten weeks. After that, the group’s name was changed to Billy Ward

TV TALK WITH BILL CUSHING

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST



In years past, spring was the time when all of your favorite TV shows were winding down and ending their seasons and you were left with reruns until the fall. It’s not that way anymore. In my opinion, this is TV’s Platinum Age. There is more quality TV out there than we know what to do with. With cable and streaming producing so much quality programming, the discerning TV viewer will always have a choice. With the blooming flowers this spring, TV will be similarly blooming with new programming.

Here is a little guide to a few of the popular shows returning this spring. Better Call Saul (AMC) – When we last left Jimmy, he had confessed to his brother Chuck that he had tampered with the Mesa Verde documents and bribed the copy store clerk where the documents were falsified. Chuck was recording the whole conversation. Meanwhile Mike was about to kill Hector Salamanca when he hears his car horn and returns to his car to find a note saying simply “Don’t.” Season 3 will feature the return of Breaking Bad villain Gus Fring and producers have promised to feature another Breaking Bad cameo that they are keeping secret. They have also said that season 3 will be much darker in tone than the first 2 seasons. Better Call Saul premieres April 10th at 10 on AMC.

Fargo (FX) – FX’s great crime drama anthology series, inspired by the 1996 film of the same name, returns for its 3rd season in April. As in the past, producers like to keep details of the story under wraps. However we do know that it will take place in Minnesota in 2010. This season’s cast will feature Ewan McGregor, Carrie Coon, and Mary Elizabeth Winstead. Fargo returns April 19th at 10 on FX.

The Leftovers (HBO) – The highly anticipated 3rd and final season of HBO’s drama from Damon Lindelof (LOST), based on Tom Perotta’s novel also returns in April. The series deals with the people left behind after 2% of the world’s popula-

tion disappears into thin air in rapture like even referred to as the “Sudden Departure.” The Leftovers 2nd season was one of the great seasons that a drama series has had in recent memory, so fans of the show are anxious to see how the series will wrap up. The Leftovers returns April 16th at 9 on HBO.

Bosch (Amazon) – The 3rd season of Amazon’s highest rated show returns in April. Based on Michael Connelly’s detective novels, and produced by Eric Overmyer (The Wire), the series features Titus Welliver returning in the role of LAPD Homicide Detective Harry Bosch. Bosch returns to Amazon on April 21st.

Prison Break (FOX) – FOX’s popular prison drama Prison Break returns for a 5th season 8 years after its last season aired. With the success of the revival of the X-Files, FOX decided that Prison Break had some life left in it and decided to bring the series back for another season. All of the original cast will be returning when the show premieres April 4th on FOX.

Twin Peaks (Showtime) – Speaking of revivals, Showtime will be bringing back Twin Peaks for a 3rd season, 26 years after its 2nd season ended on ABC. Virtually nothing is known about the storyline, but if you’re familiar with Twin Peaks, you can be sure it will be strange, and a whole lot of fun. The revival will consist of 18 episodes and will return May 21st at 9 on Showtime.

House of Cards (Netflix) – Season 5 of Netflix’s political drama, starring Kevin Spacey promises to be every bit as scandalous and outrageous as before. House of Cards premieres on Netflix on May 30th.

Also returning: Veep (HBO) – April 16th, Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt (Netflix) – May 19th, Silicon Valley (HBO) – April 23rd.

That’s it for this month everyone! Happy Watching!
If you have any questions about TV you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column.

Follow Bill on Twitter @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion.

DOMINOES: PAGE 21

The logo for Emily's Bakery features the name in a stylized, hand-painted font. Below it, the hours of operation are listed: "We are open: Monday - Saturday: 6AM to 5PM Sunday - Closed". The contact information includes the address "223 Lincoln Ave, Haverhill, MA. 01830", phone/fax number "(978) 374-9603", and email "emilys@comcast.net".

A collage of various baked goods including chocolate cookies, cinnamon rolls, a large cheesecake with red jam, a multi-tiered wedding cake with flowers, chocolate eclairs, and a chocolate-dipped cake.

A photograph of three people in white chef uniforms, two men and one woman, smiling.

Now Available at the Meat House



Writers Win Valley Patriot Editor’s Choice Awards

Each year The Valley Patriot honors two Valley Patriot contributors for outstanding writing or taking the high road in public discourse while also taking very bold stands on some of the most important issues that shape our culture and our community. Columnists, reporters, and even letter writers are eligible for this award. Previous winners of this award have exposed corruption, called out elected officials for bad behavior, provided exceptional information to the public and/or attracted a whole new demographic of readers to the paper.

“Our two winners for the 2017 Valley Patriot Editor’s Choice Awards are Duncan Burns and Cindy Annis,” Valley

Patriot publisher Tom Duggan told the crowd.

Duncan has only been writing for us for a short time but in that short time he got us national attention with his column exposing how the H1-B Visa program is taking jobs from Amerians here in the Merrimack Valley.

Cindy Annis is a out “In the Groove” columnist. She has been writing for the Valley Patriot for three years and has a radio show on 980WCAP where she promotes the paper on her show The Vinyl Vault.”

Thank you Duncan and Cindy for all your hard work this year and let me say an honorable mention goes to Dani Langevin for her great work as well.

DOMINOES: FROM PAGE 20

and His Dominoes. The last straw?!!

In 1953, Clyde McPhatter left the group, and all its fines and penalties to form his own group, “The Drifters.” His replacement was not unfamiliar to the group as Jackie Wilson sang with the group while they were on tour to help out.

Jackie Leroy “Jackie” Wilson Jr. was born on June 9th in 1934 in Detroit, Michigan. He died young at only 49 years old, in New Jersey. He was also known as “Mr. Excitement!”

McNeil and Lamont quit the group soon after that, but were quickly replaced by Cliff Givens, and Milton Merle. Jackie Wilson was singing lead, and there were still some good songs to put out! “You Can’t Keep A Good Man Down,” was their next song. This one charted at #8 on the R&B Charts, but there wasn’t much after that. Ward would move the group to a couple of different record labels like Jubilee Records and then to Decca. They would have one last hoo-rah with R&B with “St. Therese of the Roses.

In 1957, Jackie Wilson would leave the group and in comes Gene Mumford, formerly of “The Larks.” They had a good hit with Liberty Records with Mumford at the helm. “Star Dust” was a #13 Pop

Hit and it was one of the earliest sound overs, or multi track songs of the Rock Era. They did the recordings on March 7, 1957. The different tapes were then put together into one of the earliest stereo songs in rock and roll. The UK also liked it at the tune of #13 on the Pop Charts. Being their only million it was also their last big hit. Members would continue to come and go. They would do some touring and even more recording into the early 1960’s.

They had 12 Top 10 R&B Hits in the United States, and 4 Top 20 Pop Hits, as well. Their songs have been covered by countless other singers in other times. They were inducted into the “Vocal Groups Hall of Fame” in 2006. Their music will forever live in us as we continue to turn on that radio and drop that needle to listen to the best music ever recorded with a needle!!

Tune into Cindy’s Vinyl Vault, Sunday nights 100pm to midnight, Monday nights, 11pm to midnight, and Wednesday nights, 10pm to midnight for the best music from, the 50’s to the 70’s, ever put on vinyl. And remember folks, “it’s not how old it is, but, how great it sounds!”

Complacency - Taking Charge with Accountability

Rick Bellanti
VALLEY PATRIOT EXERCISE GURU

So you are well on your way to a better you and everything seems to be falling into place with your life, both professional and personal. You may have reached your health goals or close to them and now you are beginning to feel good about yourself and all you’ve accomplished thus far. Suddenly, you become complacent and surprise, you will quickly fall into bad habits and most likely wind up with weight gain once again. One thing we know is you can’t be complacent when it comes to properly taking care of health.

Avoiding complacency can be difficult at times. At one point or another every human being becomes complacent about something in their lives, whether it be their job, marriage, health and wellness or even recreation, and most have said the words: “It Is What It Is”.

That is, you accepted where you are, and no longer think changing a situation will help or benefit you. The key is to not stay there too long, find out what made you become complacent and get back in your zone once again and keep moving forward.

So what does being complacent actually mean? You finally like the way you look in the mirror, you like all the compliments you are receiving from friends and family on your transformation, you are blowing up social media with many people calling you an inspiration and you start feeling over confident, self-righteous, maybe conceited and quite possibly unconcerned of what might happen if you stop your wellness program and go back to your old ways. Now I’m not saying you shouldn’t be happy, confident and pleased with your results, after all you’ve worked pretty hard to get to where you are now, not to be proud - but you need to stick it out and continue on because if you become too relaxed you may not realize that these old bad habits started creeping back in. Before too long you are back where you started or even worse off.

The winter months bring on a bit of complacency, as you may want to stay inside more and not venture outside due to bad weather or travel to the gym in the cold. You find yourself being lazy and have no motivation. Having the holidays in winter doesn’t help either with all the food enjoyment throughout the festivities. With all this lack of motivation and letting your guard down, you will, without noticing, start packing on the pounds reversing all your hard work.

How do we overcome complacency

when it comes to our health and wellness? Let’s face it, will power alone will not keep you on track in the long run.

It is very important that you have accountability when on a weight loss journey. I’ve lost weight in the past, on and off, for almost forty plus years. I’ve had limited long term success and the times I did do well, I made sure I had accountability. When I hit my first big weight loss milestone (149lbs) in 1987 - my doctor had set up weekly consults with me at a local hospital with the dietician / nutritionist. I knew every Thursday afternoon I was going to be weighed and have a one on one discussion for thirty minutes on my nutrition. (It was the best \$8.00 a week I ever spent).

You need to find what works for you, whether it’s a Weight Watchers meeting, where you will be weighed weekly, or at a doctor’s appointment, maybe even your personal trainer at the gym, as long as you are getting weighed or at least tracking your progress on a week to week or month to month basis, it will help you stay motivated and stick to your program.

You can even enlist a buddy to do your weight loss journey together and become accountability partners. Start your own weight loss Accountability Group on Facebook and have others join and help motivate each other and keeping one another on track. It has shown proven success by having your participants set goals, post about achievements and setbacks, and offer encouragement and support when needed. (and you’ll make new friends on the same journey as you).

You can also start a blog and have followers, or use social media like Facebook and Twitter as a tool and be accountable to your friends and followers of what your progress is, by posting weekly updates. Your friends will be inspired with your hard work and provide you with encouragement and in doing so, provide positive weight-loss and weight-maintenance motivation.

Strive for progress not perfection, take it one day at a time, don’t become complacent, but if you do reach out for help, everyone wants to see you succeed, including me! Remember this is not a life sentence it’s a lifestyle change.

Rick Bellanti is a wellness columnist and is on a journey himself to lose 240lbs, and has lost 160 lbs since the start of 2015. If you have any questions or comments, please post them to his Getting Healthy with Rick Bellanti Facebook page and once a month he will address a few of the topics here.

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Valley Patriot President’s Award Winners Keith Wlodyka and Rick Bellanti

Each year Valley Patriot Publisher Tom Duggan honors two members of The Valley Patriot family with The Valley Patriot President’s Award. Winners are chosen personally by Valley Patriot Publisher Tom Duggan for those who make a unique and/or outstanding contribution in the operations of the paper or the various projects we are involved in through the year such as political debates, police rallies, volunteering with our business partners to help non profits, etc.

Maria Fiato, head of The Valley Patriot BASH Committee explained to the crowd at the 13th Anniversary BASH why Keith Wlodyka and Rick Bellanti were receiving a President’s Award.

“Keith Wlodyka has been advertising with The Valley Patriot since our very first edition in 2004 and he is still with us,” Fiato told the packed room at the Relief’s In in Lawrence.

“In 2012 when we held our very first BASH, Keith and the Daily Dose Cafe provided and served our BASH meal for FREE and has every year since. He donates the food, he pays his workers to come and serve it, and he never gets to see the BASH program.”

“So, this year we gave him a year off to enjoy the night with us, and to give him our first Valley Patriot President’s Award for always jumping in to help out without being asked. Thank you Keith Wlodyka for being such a good friend of The Valley Patriot.”

RICK BELLANTI – Bell-Aire Music Productions.

“For 5 of the last six years Rick Bellanti of Bell-Aire Music Productions has donated his time as the DJ for our BASH. He showed up out of the blue when we held our pro police rallies in Lowell two years ago, and in Methuen last year, to make sure we had an adequate sound system. He also showed up at the political debates we held at North Andover High School and the Methuen VFW.

Rick is always making sure The Valley Patriot has a great sound system for whatever we do and he does it for free to support our cause!

Thank you Rick Bellanti and Keith Wlodyka for being a part of the Valley Patriot family and making a huge difference for all our award winners, scholarship winners and those we help in the community throughout the year.

Duggan then urged everyone to help support those who support the paper. “Please patronize these businesses who help us. The Daily Dose Cafe is located in the Pentucket Medical building at Sal’s Riverwalk, 500 Merrimack St in Lawrence. (dailydosecafe.com).

Rick Bellanti of Bell-Aire Entertainment can be reached at (978) 902-7041.

7 Steps Down & 7 Steps Up!

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Happy Resurrection Sunday Everybody!! What a fantastic day this is celebrating when the angel from God asked a simple question over 2 thousand years ago which is recorded in Luke 24:5, “Why seek ye the living among the dead? To be followed by this great declaration, “He is not here, but is risen.” There are No Sweeter Sounding Words ever spoken, He is Risen!

Sure there are those who don’t believe, that’s okay, not our problem. Time and time again Scripture documents those who witnessed Him in His Resurrected Body for example, read Acts 2:24, 32, 3:15, 4:10, and 5:30, to mention a few, stating that God Raised Jesus Christ of Nazareth from the dead!

The very first sermon to the Christian Church given by the Apostle Peter is recorded in Acts 2:22-24, “22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.” Then verse 32 of the same chapter, “32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.”

Because of the Resurrection, our identification is now in Christ and not in ourselves! Once we become born-again, we are alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. The Resurrection is the receipt that we have for being purchased by God by the blood of Jesus Christ!

Jesus willingly chose to be our substitute, meaning He died in our place. He died the death that we deserved, but by God’s Grace and Mercy, Jesus stepped in and paid the price that we could not pay because our blood has sin in it. Jesus’ blood was perfect, sinless and without spot, therefore the perfect sacrifice.

Jesus by his own free will chose to take 7 steps down to our level of humanity and then God took him 7 steps up to His Glory. We read about this in Philippians

2:6-11, “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

7 Steps Down:
Being in the form of God.
Thought it not robbery to be equal with God.
Made Himself no reputation.
Took upon Him the form of a servant.
Made in likeness of men and Found in fashion as a man.
Humbled Himself.
And became obedient unto the death of the cross.

7 Steps Up:
God Highly exalted Him.
Giving Him a name.
Above every Name.
That at the Name of Jesus.
Every knee should bow.
Every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.
To the Glory of God the Father.
Remember Jesus did this for you and me, why, because God our Heavenly Father wanted a family. God wanted a relationship with us, not the man made religiosity that we see today.

Because of the Resurrection, God now has the family that He always wanted. We are His Children! All this was done to the Glory of God our Father. Amen!
Happy Resurrection Sunday!



Peter Larocque is married to wife Pam for 34 years, they have 3 wonderful children, and blessed with 3 grandchildren He is former Lawrence School Committee Member-2006-2009, and Baker with Demoulas, Market Basket 16 + years. You can email him at peterlarocque@hotmail.com



KATZ: FROM PAGE 2

opponent.

Mrs. Clinton, it’s not a hatred of women that cost you the election. It was the hatred for one woman and that woman is you. Frankly, disliking you is one of the few things that Americans seem to agree on. You offended millions of Americans on the left and the right with your hateful rhetoric and devious behavior.

Hillary Clinton blames Russia, WikiLeaks, Comey, Putin and misogyny for her loss. Conspicuous by its absence is the one name that belongs at the very top of that list, Hillary Clinton. She still does not get that she’s the anti-Sally Field and that’s why she’s not President.

Attorney Arthur Broadhurst



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Carter, MaGuire Win Valley Patriot Hero Veteran Award

\$1,600 from BASH Proceeds Donated to Veterans for Wheelchairs and Groceries

"I'm so privileged and honored to be here. I'm so privileged and honored to support this BASH. And I will continue to support this BASH every year," Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Francisco Urena told the crowded room at the Relief's In last month.

"The reason I support this BASH every year is because, any newspaper that is willing to put their valuable ... what could be ad space ... and to dedicate that to a local veteran, print after print, month after month on the front page. And to take that concept and develop it into a book to talk about those stories of our local heroes is something we just don't see enough of. So for that and that alone, Tommy, I will continue to support you and you are a great example of what every publication should be doing. Highlighting our heroes in our midst in our communities.

On behalf of our 365,000 veterans who live amongst us in this great commonwealth I want to thank the VSO's, and service officers, who help out veterans every day. I also want to thank all of our veterans who served."

Urena then highlighted why Gerard MaGuire and Randy Carter were chosen as The Valley Patriot's Hero Veteran Award winners for 2017.

"On any given day, you will find Randy Carter of the Veterans Northeast Outreach Center (VNOC) in Haverhill, out buying groceries for local homeless veterans, counseling a newly discharged vet about health care, or meeting with local politicians to try and get more resources dedicated to helping local veterans in need.

Carter is the Projects / Programs Manager at VNOC and he is also a combat veteran. Carter joined the Army in 1983 and served until 1992. He joined the Air Force in 1992 and retired in 2007.

He was deployed to the Middle East three times in support of Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. Along the way, he was given numerous awards and medals for his service. Carter was honorably discharged as a Tech. Sergeant from the USAF and a Sergeant in the U.S. Army.

GERRY MAGUIRE: Gerard "Gerry" Maguire, entered the service in 1972 and arrived at Fort Dix NJ where he did his Basic training as well as his AIT. Gerry was assigned to the transportation Corps. His first duty station was Fort Bliss Texas, where his most memorable accomplishment was to win first place in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiments annual truck rodeo. This would serve as a catapult for his career. He was almost immediately transferred to Fort Carson, Colorado to serve as the driver for the Commander of Fort Carson home to the 4th



Infantry Division. Later he would serve nearly three years in the Berlin Brigade as a driver to visiting VIPs. His next duty station Ft. Sill Oklahoma would be his last duty station. Gerry was involved in a serious accident that ended his career. Gerry attained the rank of SSG, E-6.

During his tenure he was TDY (Temporary Duty) at several different bases to include Fort Devens, Fort Eustis, Fort Lee, Frankfurt and Munich, Germany. He graduated several NCO level schools to include the NCO Academy at Bad Toelz, Germany. Gerry earned an Honorable Discharge and returned to civilian life in 1982.

Gerry has continued to serve his brothers and sisters in arms in a number of capacities. Today Gerry is the Veteran Service Officer for the North Andover and Boxford District. And as highlighted in a recent Valley Patriot story he retrofits wheelchairs in his spare time and donates them to disabled veterans who don't have one."

As Urena left the stage to present Carter and MaGuire their awards, Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan surprised the room with what he called, "something special".

"With all the local hero veterans we have, there's a reason I picked these two guys for a Hero Veteran Award. "Someone called my office one day and said, 'I don't know if you know this guy Randy Carter, but there was a homeless veteran living in his car with his family. Randy found out and tracked them down, and brought them to VNOC and put them in a housing unit. The following morning he went to Market Basket and spent \$300 out of his pocket for this homeless veteran who was living in his car with his kid and his wife."

"So, that's why he got the award. But when we were counting the money tonight I thought, there's no reason why a veteran should be taking money out of their own pocket to help a veteran that's homeless. So we are going to start you off with a grocery fund of \$1,000 so the next time a veteran comes to you don't take money out of your pocket my friend," Duggan said handing him a check."

"Hold on, I have one more, Duggan said. "Gerry MaGuire called me one day and said he knew a local veteran who had lost an arm and a leg in WWII in Italy, his name was Sergeant Lussier. This veteran needed a special wheelchair. So, Gerry went out and got a wheelchair donated and spent his own money retro-fitting it to the size of Sg. Lussier, he went out and got a motor, I hear he's pretty good with his hands, and he built a motor for it. He was calling me because he wanted me to meet this veteran and maybe do a story on Sgt. Lussier for the paper. Gerry MaGuire wanted me to highlight, not what he was doing, donating a wheelchair, but the veteran he was giving the wheelchair to."

"We interviewed Sgt. Lussier, put him on the front page; he is in the book "Heroes in Our Midst" please read his story."

So I was thinking, why does a veteran have to spend his own time and money retro-fitting wheelchairs for men who went off and served and lost an arm and a leg for our country. It's a disgrace that he has to do it, but it is so awesome that he does it. So, here is a check from the money we raised tonight in the amount of \$600 for your next few wheelchairs."

HERO: FROM PAGE 1

judge. They had a brief conversation about how Julian was on a rooftop and saw this guy go near the check point and stop. Then he tried to drive through the check point as they shot at his tires and car to stop him.

"Why the car didn't explode when we shot it, I have no idea. Apparently, it wasn't his time to go," Julian says.

The terrorist was sent to a jail in Baghdad.

Julian said he was excited to be able to testify in Iraqi court and marveled at how the court system there held hearings, tried and convicted the insurgents and other bad guys so he wouldn't have to kill them.

Julian says a lot of the sniper missions were surveillance and rooftop watches to they could oversee the area to make sure no one tries to plant road side bombs to kill our own troops. "A couple times we witnessed road-side bombs being planted and we basically just took them out."

Julian Jaramillo retired from military service in 2006. He traveled extensively when he was discharged and says his love of motorcycles led him to attend a motorcycle mechanic school in Orlando, Florida. The dorms were like those from the movie Animal House, he recalled, and he wasn't financially able to get an apartment. But, he had his jeep, and a tent and says he set up in the back of a campground so he could attend school.

Eventually, he opened up his own motorcycle shop in Alabama where he lived with close friend and fellow marine, Natasha Young, a Valley Patriot of the Month (May, 2008).

During this time, Julian developed terrible aches and pains associated with combat. His body was just worn out. Julian says the pain was so bad in his hands and back he could no longer use a wrench to fix his beloved motorcycles. His friend, Natasha had secured herself a position at

Veterans Northeast Outreach Center (VNOC) in Haverhill, Massachusetts and put Julian in contact with Randy Carter the Projects/Programs Manager. Carter was a Valley Patriot of the Month in Feb, 2017).

In May of 2014, Julian finally moved to Massachusetts and was offered the position of housing specialist at VNOC. His job was to secure housing for fellow veterans. One of the first cases Julian worked on was the discovery of a veteran along with his wife and child living in their car. With all the resources VNOC had to offer (employment, education, housing and financial, etc.) Julian got this veteran into housing and on the road to recovery. The next time Julian saw him, he had become a social worker and drug abuse counselor in an adjoining community.

Julian pointed out that one of the many responsibilities in assisting homeless veterans is building relationships with landlords (which VNOC has done extensively). Over time, VNOC has also built a relationship with the non-profit Habitat for Humanity in the Merrimack Valley. Through this program they completed the first "Veterans Build" on Phillips Street in Lawrence for veteran families. This was done with the financial help of grants and generous donations.

Along the way, both Julian and Natasha acquired service dogs through a non-profit program for vets called Patriot Rovers. These service dogs are specially trained as medical alert and response dogs as well as other service tasks that veterans needs. They are not pets or emotional or therapy support animals. Natasha has Pax and Julian has Radar.

Julian received that Navy Marine Corp Accommodation V for Valor, the Sniper Team Leader medal, the Terrorism Medal, Two Navy Achievement Combat Action ribbons,



the Expert Rifle and Pistol medal, and the Overseas Service Deployment medal.

Julian Jaramillo has served our country honorably and put his life on the line to protect our country and his fellow troops.

This month, The Valley Patriot is proud to honor Julian Jaramillo as our Hero In Our Midst. Thank you Julian for your service protecting our freedoms and thank you for coming back home and dedicating your life to helping other veterans here at home.

NOTEBOOK: FROM PAGE 9

YOUR MONEY WITH ALEX TALCOTT

Day by learning about MA Turtles
Mike Jones, Ph.D. - State Herpetologist for the Commonwealth
Friday, April 21 at 8:30 a.m. \$4 fee.
Breakfast provided
Mohegan Sun - Wednesday, April 26th.
Enjoy a Show, Shop, Eat, Relax. Cost \$35 per person. Tickets must be purchased by April 10. Includes a \$15 food coupon and \$15 Money Wheel bet.
Leave The Center at 8am, return 6 p.m.
Seats are first come, first serve.
Trivia Night - Thursday, April 27th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Play trivia. 5pm. join the students for dinner. Come and have some fun with students from the Youth Center, team up and let's see who can win at TRIVIA! Call the Center to register 978-623-8320.
Women's Outdoor Adventures: Meet at the Center at 9am. Please pre-register
Thursday, April 20: Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary: Admissions for non-Mass Audubon members is \$3.00. Bring a lunch.
METHUEN POLICE
COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
ALCOHOL AWARENESS
Mayor Stephen Zanni and Chief Joseph Solomon are pleased to announce that the Methuen Police Department and the Community Addiction Resource Engagement Services (C.A.R.E.S) Initiative will host the "Connecting the Dots: Opportunities for Recovery," a community conversation and expert panel event to coincide with Alcohol Awareness Month in April.
Saturday April 22 from 11 a.m. to 1pm, at the Methuen Senior Center, 77 Lowell St.
As part of the event, residents will be able to interact with an expert panel for a discussion, focusing on what programs and initiatives would be beneficial to Methuen to address community needs surrounding alcohol addiction. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions about recovery and personal experiences.
"This April, the police department and C.A.R.E.S. are focusing on providing Methuen community members with the tools necessary to help recover from alcohol addiction," Chief Solomon said. "We encourage all Methuen residents who may be affected by this disease to attend the event."
Refreshments will be provided and interactive activities will be available for children.
• Representatives from the Methuen Police Department

• Methuen High School S.A.A.D students
• Lynn Hansen, Essex County Correctional Facility
• J.T. Torres, Veteran Services
• Deanna Cruz, Lawrence /Methuen Community Coalition
• Pastor Goodrich, First Baptist Church Plaistow, N.H.
• Rose DiNuccio, Fitness Trainer
• Doug Griffin, Parent Ambassador
• Carina Pappalardo, CEO of the Psychological Center
For more information on the event, contact Community Engagement Specialists Jennifer Burns at 978-701-7782 or Jacquelyn Ingersoll at 978-701-8195.
45TH ANNUAL SHEEP SHEERING FESTIVAL
The 45th annual North Andover Sheep Shearing Festival returns for its traditional spring celebration on Sunday, May 21st, on the North Andover Town Common from 10:00 a.m. to 4pm. The festival attracts thousands of people each year, is accessible from I-495, exit 42. (GPS location is 800 Mass Ave.) Admission and events are free.
Among the festival's most popular attractions are the sheep herding and sheep shearing demonstrations. David Kennard returns from Wellscroft Farm in NH to round up the sheep with his Border Collies. Before his dogs demonstrate their abilities, David Kennard challenges children to try rounding the sheep into their pens faster than his Border Collies. Even though children have yet to top his dogs, they always succeed in having a great time. In addition, Andy Rice of Hogget Hill Farm in Brattleboro, Vermont will demonstrate sheep shearing.
Entertainment includes sheep shearing, wool spinning demonstrations, a juried crafts fair, and pony rides, available for a fee. There will be blacksmithing and other demonstrations. In addition, a wide range of foods will be available from vendors.
As an added convenience, there will be free parking at the Franklin and Middle Schools, with free shuttle service to and from the festival for the duration of the event.
The North Andover Sheep Shearing Festival is presented by the North Andover Festival Committee, a volunteer citizen's group dedicated to enhancing life in North Andover through periodic community events.

What You Need to Know About Required Minimum Distributions

Alex Talcott
VALLEY PATRIOT MONEY COLUMNIST

Age 70-1/2 represents an important milestone for your retirement savings. Once you reach this age, you will need to begin withdrawing money from your retirement accounts. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires you to take these mandatory annual withdrawals, which are formally known as Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs).

RMDs apply to assets held in individual retirement accounts (IRAs), SEP IRAs, SIMPLE IRAs and workplace retirement plans like 401(k), 403(b) and 457(b) plans. The RMD rules do not apply to Roth IRA owners, but may apply to owners who inherited someone else's retirement savings.

The rules governing RMDs are complex, and the steps required to take distributions may appear overwhelming. Here are some answers to common questions that may clear up the process:

Q: When am I required to take annual minimum distributions from these accounts?

A: Required distributions must begin by April 1 of the year after you reach age 70-1/2. If you turn 70-1/2 at any point in 2017, you have until April 1, 2018 to take your first required distribution. If you continue to work and have a workplace plan, you may be able to delay taking RMDs from that account until after you retire.

Q: How often must I take withdrawals?

A: You must take your RMD amount by December 31 of each year. If you wait until the year after you turn age 70-1/2 to take your first distribution, the second is still due by the end of that calendar year. In other words, a person turning 70-1/2 in 2017 will need to take distributions for both 2017 (by April 1, 2018) and 2018 (by December 31, 2018).

Q: How much is my RMD amount each year?

A: The IRS provides tables that help you calculate the distribution amount for a given year based on your age and life expectancy¹. RMDs need to be recalculated each year. The RMD for any year is based on the value of an account as of the last day of the previous year. That value is divided by the distribution period defined in the applicable IRS table. You are always free to withdraw more than the calculated RMD amount at any time. However, if you

withdraw more than your required RMD in 2017, you still need to pay the full RMD in 2018.

Q: If I have multiple retirement accounts subject to RMD rules, can I take all of the distributions from one account?

A: RMDs must be calculated for each account separately. However, if you own multiple IRA or 403(b) plans, you can add up the RMD amount from each plan of the same type and take a single withdrawal from one of those accounts. For example, you could satisfy your IRA RMD requirements by taking a single withdrawal from your SEP account, but not from your 403(b). Rules are

different, however, for 401(k) and 457(b) plans. With these accounts, RMDs must be calculated and distributed from each account separately.

Q: How are distributions taxed?
A: Generally, withdrawals of pre-tax contributions and earnings are taxed as ordinary income. Although, failing to take distributions on a timely basis subjects you to a tax penalty equal to 50 percent of the amount not withdrawn to meet the minimum distribution requirement. (There is also a penalty if you withdraw less than your required RMD.)

RMDs are an important part of your retirement income strategy. If you have questions or would like more information about how to take or prepare for taking your annual withdrawals, consult a trusted financial advisor and tax advisor.

1 – IRS.gov, "Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)," July 28, 2016. <<https://www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/plan-participant-employee/retirement-topics-required-minimum-distributions-rmds>>.

Alex Talcott, JD, is a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Portsmouth and Bedford, New Hampshire and Middleton, Massachusetts. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 10 years. To contact him: (603) 319-3108; 25 Chestnut St., Ste. 300N, Portsmouth, NH, 03801; www.ameripriseadvisors.com/alex.talcott

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Property Sales, Foreclosures for MARCH, 2017 in Andover, North Andover, Lawrence, & Methuen. From Northern Essex Registrar of Deeds M. Paul Iannuccillo (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, address, and price.)

ANDOVER

South Main /street, Tristan Homes LLC, 73 Woburn Street, \$240,000.00
 Bubbling Brook Realty Trust, Philip & Kathleen Solomon, 17 York Street, \$500,000.00
 Maigo, NE Home Realty Group LLC, 73 River Street, \$190,000.00
 Rivers Edge Properties LLC, Constitution Properties LLC, 14 Lucerne Dr, \$360,000.00
 Susana Lugo, Shek Masum, 95 Argilla Rd, \$673,250.00
 Ludlam LLC, Patricia Thome, 278 River Rd, \$595,000.00
 James & Maureen Palermo, Betsy K Revocable Trust of 2005, 16 Swan Lane Unit 7-4, \$852,000.00
 Kethleen E Consentino Revocable Trust, Michael & Anne White, 2 Harper Cir, \$960,000.00
 69 North Street LLC, Shashank Nalla & Archana Pothela, 29 Boardwalk Dr Unit 29, \$599,999.00
 Ann Marie Noonan, Peter J. Morris, 80 Summer Street Unit 2, \$285,000.00
 Pensco Trust CO, Jason Anton, 273 South Main Street, \$517,000.00
 Anne Marie & Associates LLC, Jason Anton, 273 South Main Street,
 Jeffco Inc, Shinwoo Kang & Hyun Jung Pong, 142 Osgood Street, \$525,000.00
 Lei Sui & Ku Kiu, Liguu Au & Lan Yu, 25 Chester Street, \$515,000.00
 JEM 1999 Realty Trust, Andrew & Elizabeth Blanchard, 0, \$789,900.00
 Enida Narkus, Kevin & Mary McKenna, 6 Marigold Lane, \$395,000.00
 Black Door Properties LLC, Peter & Shirley Schwarz, 47 Hidden Rd, \$565,000.00
 James Lebow&Joan Demarest &,,, Mary-Louise Broderick, James Lebow & Akimi Valhouli, 6 William Street, \$550,000.00
 Ti-Yuan D Shu & Lee Shin Revocable Trust, Chidambaram Dhanasekaran, 11 Pheasant Run, \$623,000.00
 Ti-Yuan D Shu & Lee Shin Revocable Trust, Rekha Devi Jevananda Joke, 11 Pheasant Run,
 Shawsheen River Realty LP, Contrasound LLC, 204 Andover St Unit 204, \$100,000.00
 Timothy Cox, Andrew Cavanaugh & Abigail Cox, 0 Bypass Rd, \$385,000.00
 Russell C Serbagi 2011 Irrevocable Trust, Keith Yen, 16 Balmoral St Unit 208, \$231,000.00
 10 Arthur Road Realty Trust, William & Doreen Cleary, 10 Arthur Rd, \$345,000.00



D MacDonald Jr Realty Trust, Cattle Crossing LLC, 79-81 Chestnut Street, \$425,000.00
 Bartnut LLC, Allston Street Group LLC, 32 Chestnut St, \$1,250,000.00
 Yount Realty Trust, Venkateshwara and Mahalakshmi Pula, 3 Hitchcock Farm Rd, \$1,095,000.00
 James Welling, Deborah Dagostino, 36 Central St, \$245,000.00
 Abby Thomas, Michael DeFusco & Eliza Sabra, 11 Old South Lane, \$578,950.00
 James Goddard, Minjeong Kim, 23 Vine St, \$482,500.00
 RDM Lakeside LLC, Rorn Seng-Yem & Sereyvutha Yem, 10 Lakeside Cir, \$557,119.00
 Travis & Pamela Drouin, Christopher & Renee Friel, 11 Belle Haven Dr, \$797,450.00
 69 North Street LLC, Krishna Katamaraja, 30 Boardwalk Drive Unit 30, \$564,900.00
 69 North Street LLC, Divya Vangari, 30 Boardwalk Drive Unit 30,
 Jonathan & Shawna Pierce, Yi-Hsien Lee & Minwen Yang, 187 Woburn St, \$429,000.00
 Andover Fourteen Essex Street Realty Trust, Mansard 3 LLC, 14 Essex St, \$404,000.00
 Robert & Mona Leveille, Dennis Ho & Evelyn Duyen Nguyen, 19 Acorn Dr, \$1,221,500.00
 Kristelle Angelli, Katelyn Larson, 12 Maple Ave Unit 12-3, \$215,000.00
 Fitzpatrick Realty Trust I, 24 Bellevue Road Realty Trust, 24 Bellevue Rd, \$540,000.00
 US Bank NA Tr, Saint Christopher Properties LLC, 2 Dufton Rd, \$90,000.00
 James & Holly Davidson, Lynn Turchi & Kimberly Rabold, 4 Brierwood Cir,

\$705,000.00
 WS NV 200 Bulfinch Drive LLC, Atlantic-Philadelphia Realty LLC, 200 Bulfinch Dr, \$9,950,000.00

LAWRENCE

Gloria Menjivar & Erickson Soloranzo, Isaac Chicas, 395 Howard Street, \$347,000.00
 Patria Castillo, Tomas Tejada, 25-27 Butler Street, \$318,000.00
 Patria Castillo, Alba Yris Vasquez Villa, 25-27 Butler Street,
 R & J Family Realty Trust II, Jose Betances, 274 East Haverhill Street Unit 1, \$69,000.00
 Ernesto Morrobel & Esperanza Rivas Demorrobel, Rafael Monegro, 515-517 Hampshire Street, \$322,000.00
 Jennifer Girgenti, Francis Trinidad, 267 Colonial Road, \$253,000.00
 Vincenta Taveras, CR&L Partners Inc, 330-332 Lowell Street, \$209,000.00
 Vincenta Taveras, CR&L Partners Inc, 91 Oxford Street,
 Wilson Ortega, Manuary Rivera & Genesis Montilla, 119-121 Allston Street, \$280,000.00
 CZC Kobrzynski Realty Trust, Johanne Frias, 348 Haverhill Street, \$475,000.00
 CZC Kobrzynski Realty Trust, Johanne Frias, 352-354 Haverhill Street,
 CZC Kobrzynski Realty Trust, Johanne Frias, 108-110 East Haverhill Street, \$325,000.00
 CZC Kobrzynski Realty Trust, Johanne Frias, 296 Prospect Street,
 John Delorey, Diane Delorey, 91 Oxford Street, \$35,000.00
 Beda Polanco, Maria Medina Sanchez, 163 Broadway, \$99,000.00
 US Bank NA TR, Giao Nguyen, 524 Lowell St, \$160,000.00
 Rafael Rojas-Camilo & Alexandra Montalvo, Vladimir Cepeda, 147-151 Farnham Street, \$380,000.00

Guarionex Taveras, Jennifer Cadigan, 141 Sylvester Street, \$295,000.00
 Yanelys Martinez, Geraldo Polanco & Evangelita Salazar, 30-32 Tremont Street, \$389,900.00
 60-62 Berkeley LLC, Resa Properties LLC, 56-62 Berkeley Street, \$250,000.00
 Richard Jerome Fingleton, Brownfield Realty Trust, 81-83 Bromfield Street, \$151,000.00
 Sobeida Belliard, Junior Acevedo & Wendy Aparicio-Acevedo, 88 Cambridge Street, \$282,000.00
 Nelsida Grullon & Genciana Tellez, Eliezer Delacruz Vargas, 41 Bennington Street, \$310,000.00
 Robert & Donna Cunningham, Junior Vasquez, 52-54 Crescent Street, \$290,000.00
 Tina Messina, 423 Merrimack Street LLC, 6 Dolan Ct, \$255,000.00
 Daniel & Nidia Henriquez, Anita Pastor, 36 Phillips Street, \$243,500.00
 Jeannette Garcia, Tawil Nohely Contreras, 2 East Street, \$379,000.00
 Wells Fargo Bank NA TR, Trinity Acquisitions LLC, 17-19 Eutaw Street, \$261,000.00
 Cruz Aguasvivas, Samuel Estrella, 529-531 Andover Street, \$363,900.00
 Santander Bank NA, Correa Properties LLC, 47 Adams Street, \$186,000.00
 Hiep Truong, Nicole Perez & Calvin Carrasco, 10 Wood Lane, \$330,000.00
 Vivian Marmol, Evelyn Nunez, 124 Boxford St & 137 Foster St, \$389,900.00
 Massachusetts Nursing Homes LLC, 800 Essex LLC, 800 Essex St, \$1,258,800.00
 Israel Reyes & Patricia Sanchez-Reyes, Maria Quezada, 370 Ames St, \$296,000.00
 Zebulun Day, Doris Soba, 270-272 Farnham St, \$356,000.00
 29 Berkeley Street Nominee Trust, Ramon Vasquez, 29 Berkeley Street, \$387,000.00
 Hai Hoang, Claudia Ortiz, 14B Tyler Street Unit 2, \$160,000.00
 139-141 Warwick Street Realty Trust, Luis Rodriguez, 139-141 Warwick Street,

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Property Sales, Foreclosures for MARCH, 2017 in Andover, North Andover, Lawrence, & Methuen. From Northern Essex Registrar of Deeds M. Paul Iannuccillo (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, address, and price.)

CONT. FROM PAGE 25

\$385,000.00
139-141 Warwick Street Realty Trust, Ruth Robles-Flores, 139-141 Warwick Street, Khai & Dao Ma, Chien Nguyen, 64 Bigelow Street, \$338,000.00
Will Piantini, Eddy Piantini, 106 Ames Street, \$360,000.00
Eric Cerullo, Gary Mannion, 6 Mount Auburn Street, \$225,000.00
Daher Group Inc, Christopher & Hidekel Blanco, 15 Hamilton Street, \$314,900.00
Allison Routhier, Paul Belmore, 701 Lowell Street, \$235,000.00
Allison Routhier, Arlene Diaz, 701 Lowell Street,
St. Augusta Landing Limited Liability Co, William Jerome Kilgoe III., \$93,987.00
Essex Management & Realty Property Inc., Sarah Martinez, 203-205 Saratoga Street, \$399,900.00
Essex Management & Realty Property Inc., Sugeylis Urbaez, 203-205 Saratoga Street,
Yessika Jimenez, Rachel, David, & Caroline Gakenheimer, 3 Yale Ter, \$265,000.00
Joseph Catalano, Jorge Mejia, 144-146 South Union Street, \$595,000.00
Labelle Maison LLC, Daniel Lauture, 208 Ferry St, \$384,000.00
John F Kennedy Jr, Moses Tabi & Hildah Kangethe, 87 Alder St, \$245,000.00
US Bank NA Tr, Ram Gupta, 11-21 Lawrence St Unit 703, \$66,000.00
Daher Group Inc, Lenin Diaz & Ylumi-mada Hernandez, 53-55 Greenwood St, \$374,900.00
Florescia Sorto & William Valenzuela & Gladis Callejas, Marcelina Cleto & Alvaro Sosa, 52 Railroad St, \$410,000.00
Garcia Family LLC, Juan Miguel Lopez, 338 Walnut St, \$319,900.00
Julio & Nancy Hilton, Kemberly Paulin & Nesly Paulin &, 130 E Haverhill St, \$375,000.00
Julio & Nancy Hilton, Widley Paulin & Romule Calixte, 130 E Haverhill St,
Iris Jaime, Jose Jaime, 46 Knox St, \$325,000.00
Michael & Patrick Delaney & Patricia Sharpe, Wallace Nogueira Jr & Kathleen Delaney, 1 Mount Vernon Cir, \$307,000.00
M & A Real Estate LLC, Salas Jordan Family LLC, 274 East Haverhill Street Unit 13, \$103,500.00
Martha Marte & Julia Payano, JMP Realty Trust, 9-11 Butler St, \$260,000.00
Troy & Tamara Moreau, Evelyn Urena, 155 Olive Ave, \$280,000.00
Edward Currier, Mauricio Ferreira, 62-64 Congress St, \$370,000.00
Fiordaliza Carrasquillo, Cristian Rivera, 20 Springfield St, \$178,000.00
Roger Farah, Yokatia Rodriguez, 27-29 Mount Auburn St, \$279,500.00
Philip Cerullo, Maria Tejada, 110 E Pleasant St, \$269,000.00

METHUEN

Salvatore Placenti, Catherine Benitez, 63 Hampshire Street, \$448,800.00
Salvatore Placenti, Oscar Mena Blanco, 63 Hampshire Street,
Mario Barletta, Michael & Suzanne Dempsey, 20 Heather Drive Unit 36, \$317,000.00
US Bank NA TR, Bradley Cardoza, 18 East Capital Street, \$205,000.00
Sarah & Michelle Lynch, Stephanie Checchi, 467 Prospect Street Unit 2, \$220,000.00
Regis Pelletier, Helen Maria Marie & John Leger, 203 Hampstead Street, \$395,000.00
Leanne & Jason Merrill, Francisco Pichardo, 25 Ford Street, \$230,000.00
Rescon-Waring Ventures LLC, Aziz Ikbali & Dalal Laaroussi, 8 1/2 Granite Street, \$249,000.00
Weslaur Realty Trust, William Bennett IV & Jessica Bennett, 27 Sugar Hill Circle, \$360,000.00
Matthew & Erin St Jean , Anthony Hubbard & Sara Murphy, 6 Appaloosa Drive,

\$400,000.00
Kristopher Trainor, American Real Estate Development LLC, 33 Stanley Road, \$110,000.00
Colonial Cottage Realty Trust, Linda Lacasse, 4 Tilbury Road Unit 4, \$189,000.00
Bank of American N A, Diverse Real Estate LLC, 548 Merrimack Street, \$152,500.00
Merrimack Valley Development Corp., LLB Construction Inc., 60 Sheldon Street, \$120,000.00
Merrimack Valley Development Corp., Gallo Lawn Care, 51 Benefit Street, \$120,000.00
Vu Ho & Phuong Luu, Roberto Lopez, 3-5 Oakside Avenue Unit 2, \$233,000.00
Judith Gurka, Pleasant Valley Landscape Contractors LLC, 57 Old Ferry Road, \$341,000.00
Margaret Way LLC, Jesse & Jennifer Plouffe, 7 Margarets Way, \$515,000.00
Barbara Neumann, Robert J. Palmisano Revocable Trust, 61 Mystic Street Unit 61-1, \$99,000.00
Barbara Neumann, Robert J. Palmisano Revocable Trust, 61 Mystic Street Unit 61-2, \$100,000.00
Bank of New York Mellon Tr, Juana Gonzalez, 5 Park Avenue Unit 1, \$130,924.00
William, Paul, Cynthia, & Thomas McGurran, Zulema Monroy, 18-20 Coronet Avenue, \$337,000.00
William, Paul, Cynthia, & Thomas McGurran, Henry Cisneros-Veliz, 18-20 Coronet Avenue,
Barbara Neumann, Robert J. Palmisano Revocable Trust, 61 Mystic Street Unit 61-5, \$80,000.00
Barbara Neumann, Robert J. Palmisano Revocable Trust, 61 Mystic Street Unit 61-7, \$98,000.00
Richard Paolino & Maureen Thibeaunilton & Vanda Arruda, 34 Worcester Street, \$290,000.00
Nicole Ledoux & James Parker, Jeremy Hashem, 30 Norgate Road, \$197,000.00
Elsa Moniz, Breanna Corcoran, 19 Oakhill Drive, \$270,000.00
Elsa Moniz, Carl Robinson, 19 Oakhill Drive,
Toll MA IV LLC, Nicholas Felice, 4 Sequoia Drive Unit 40, \$721,398.00
Toll MA IV LLC, Evelyn Friel, 4 Sequoia Drive Unit 40,
Francis Moreau & Joyce Girolamo-Moreau, Caitlin Connolly, 10-12 Richardson Court, \$425,000.00
Francis Moreau & Joyce Girolamo-Moreau, Nicholas Comeau, 10-12 Richardson Court,
Laura, Christina, & Americo Cozzone, Reynaldo Rodriguez, 50-52 Ashland Avenue, \$247,000.00
PCP Realty Trust, Adam & Sarah Pellerin, 50 Currier Street, \$175,000.00
Ronald & Debra Letourneau, Keith Letourneau, 19 Elaine Avenue, \$50,543.00
Joseph & Karneg Koutoumjian, Huei-Yun Lee, 6 Hopkins Circle, \$425,500.00
Guillermo & Wendy Ramierz, Richard Theriault, 161 Maple Street, \$290,000.00
Jeffrey Gorelik, Joan Kisembo, 55 Ford Street Unit C, \$139,900.00
JRLLK Properties LLC, Guillermo Ramierz, 45 Gaston Street Unit 45, \$175,000.00
Sarah Doyle, Charles Folland, 207 Edgewood Avenue Unit 207, \$235,000.00
Sarah Doyle, Kristen Doyle, 207 Edgewood Avenue Unit 207,
MDK Properties Realty Trust, 70-72 Broadway Street LLC, 70-72 Broadway, \$540,000.00
Dennis Mchugh, Abdallah Saboul, 587 Lowell Street, \$225,000.00
Fei Juan Zheng & Cheukhiu Kong, Yessika & Emmanuel Acevedo, 4 Barrett Cir, \$425,000.00
Philip Racioppi, Roger & Linda Beaudoin, 85 Meriline Ave, \$282,400.00
Ramon & Aileen Cruz, Philip & Wendy Forsyth, 6 Arrowood St, \$550,000.00
Vincent & Janet Ardizzone, Chan Tran,

179A Pleasant Valley St Unit A, \$192,000.00
Donald Gwizdak, Katelyn Thigpen, 1 Riverview Blvd Unit 8-203, \$202,500.00
Margaret Way LLC, Kevin & Teresita Gilmore, 11 Margarets Way, \$509,900.00
Margaret Way LLC, Philip Racioppa & Lucia Pais, 4 Margarets Way, \$449,900.00
Katie Psoinos, Jonathan Duncklee, 1 Riverview Blvd Unit 5-201, \$196,000.00
Dennis Blanco & Zoila Tangui, Valentin & Orquidea Calixto, 53 Christopher Dr Unit 90, \$230,000.00
M E Garceau Nominee Realty Trust, Purvi LLC, 63 Christopher Dr Unit 85, \$203,500.00
Robert & Stacy Preston, Jaime Ramirez & Sinthya Rosario, 8 Autumn Ln, \$439,900.00
Robert & Paulette Issa, Hala Abouseka, 6 Pond St, \$210,000.00
Chadi Chakar, Kaneil & Kara Mazella, 4 Christopher Dr Unit 32, \$235,000.00
Toll MA IV LLC, Dave & Rosie Khandanga, 15 Pine Tree Dr Unit 102, \$608,492.00
Howe Street Realty Trust, Top Notch Homes LLC, 436 Howe St, \$320,000.00
Arlene Picone, Rebecca Petrillo & Susan Lamagdelaine, 4 Palanga St, \$300,000.00
Margaret Grassi, Leane & Kevin Cole, 45 Christopher Dr Unit 96, \$194,500.00
Treetop Rentals LLC, Noemi Mena, 22 Riverdale St, \$335,000.00
VC Detailed Properties LLC, Jose Rios & Tania Rios-Rodriguez, 13 Gleason St, \$270,000.00
Jolyn Burdin, Ramon Cruz, 32 Arnold St, \$259,900.00

NORTH ANDOVER

Maneesh Mootaa, Alexander Girroir, 148 Main St Unit A213, \$193,000.00
Sonja Larson & Robert Magnuson, Louis Stella Jr., 78 Millpond, \$271,000.00
Keith & Amy Harley, Kyle Huber, 7-9 Commonwealth Avenue, \$450,000.00
Ravi & Monisha Nabar, American International Relocation Solutions LLC, 93 Sherwood Drive, \$750,000.00
American International Relocation Solutions LLC, Robert & Donna Lindenstruth, 93 Sherwood Drive, \$750,000.00
Christopher Chen, Tiffany Stannard, 4 Harvest Drive Unit 119, \$167,000.00
Evros Realty Trust, Coco Real Estate Trust, 15 First Street, \$725,000.00
Morgan Doucette, Michael & Stephanie Donohue, 56 Gray Street, \$458,000.00
Brittany Hanson, Janelle Corbett, 2 Harvest Drive Unit 112, \$260,000.00
James Leduc, Olga & Felix Iskakov, 4 Harvest Drive Unit 223, \$272,500.00
NA Water St Empire LLC, Michael Rios & Hailey Runyan, 69 Water Street Unit 2, \$265,000.00
Lisa Ann, Stephen & Eric Shaheen, Taesoo Ahn, 94 Main Street, \$576,000.00
Jennifer McIntyre, Matthew Leissing & Ashley Golab, 24 Hewitt Avenue, \$455,000.00

Patti J Bryant Living Trust, Ronald Cuscia, 1401 Great Pond Rd Unit 14, \$160,500.00
Karen Odonohue, Sebastian Jelinski & Magdalena Bogusz, 201 Raleigh Tavern Lane, \$651,000.00
Mark & Nancy Alpert, Jesse & Cara Lane, 10 Periwinkle Way, \$827,000.00
Linda Bonvie, Kimete & Arjan Pashaj, 1 Harvest Drive Unit 211, \$167,000.00
BMB LLC, JJM Holdings LLC, 1980 Turnpike Street Unit 2, \$785,000.00
John & Darlene King, Yokatia Rodriguez, 591 Turnpike Street, \$315,000.00
William Garofano, Igor Gejan, 50 Fernview Avenue Unit 1, \$192,000.00
William Garofano, Viorica Guzun, 50 Fernview Avenue Unit 1,
Patrick Hogan & Michelle Boe-Hogan, Jerald & Amber Curran, 371 Summer Street, \$598,000.00
New England Aviators LLC, Nathaniel Sims, 280 Holt Road Unit 3, \$75,000.00
Alexis Conroy Valverde, Alexander Baribeau, 133 Pleasant Street Unit 3, \$199,000.00
Alexis Conroy Valverde, Anne-Marie Buchanan, 133 Pleasant Street Unit 3,
Justin & Dana Perry, Mark Dunham, 55 Blue Ridge Road, \$649,900.00
Justin & Dana Perry, Katelyn Cavanna-Dunham, 55 Blue Ridge Road,
David Frishkorn & Jack Hellaby, Anna Gagliardi, 4 Harvest Drive Unit 314, \$270,000.00
William & Jeanmarie Powell, Kyle & Kara Geiselman, 167 Carter Field Road, \$745,000.00
Alice Mccarthy, Andrew & Rosemary Silva, 172 Chestnut Street Unit 9, \$190,000.00
Ryan & Susan Sauls, Marina & Michael Ciampa, 485 Forest St, \$639,900.00
Thomas Beasley Jr, Therese Paradise & Alexander Culver, 70-72 Maple Ave Unit 2, \$159,900.00
Wanda Santos-Dwyer, Stephanie & Neil Eldershaw, 1 Harvest Dr Unit 301, \$269,900.00
Peter John Loughman III & Brianne Cobb, Matthew & Elizabeth Costerisan, 120 Milk St, \$775,000.00
Ryan Holt & Valerie Nydam, Matthew Costa, 210 Chickering Rd Unit 208A, \$265,000.00
Paul Salafia Jr & Kelli Salafia, Gregory Megerdichian & Julie Beauregard, 30 Peterson Rd, \$480,000.00
Galina V Mishin Revocable Trust, Siriam & Padma Sattiraju, 194 Gray St, \$748,000.00
7 Walker Road North Andover Realty Trust, Eric & Laurel Schneider, 7 Walker Rd Unit 8, \$112,500.00
Dustin & Alyssa Sullivan, Joshua & Stephanie Roberts, 33 Union St, \$425,000.00
Nicholas & Jessica Gerteisen, Matthew & Jennifer Larson, 40 Mayflower Dr Unit 5, \$605,000.00
Boris & Dvora Bel, Nicholas & Jessica Gerteisen, 28 Thistle Rd, \$812,000.00

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Methuen, MA 01844

Tel 978-685-0093
Fax 978-689-3377

northernprocess@gmail.com

Hey Y'ALL

Break out your Bowties and Big Hats. You are cordially invited to attend a Kentucky Derby Fundraising Event!

To benefit the programs of The Psychological Center

May 6, 2017 at 5pm ~ Haverhill Country Club
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R.S.V.P by April 27th
Kelly Townsend - 978-291-2264
Kelly.townsend@psychologicalcenter.com

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Northern Essex Registry of Deeds

M. Paul Iannuccillo, Register

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Homestead & Deed Information Session
At The Methuen Senior Activity Center
77 Lowell Street, Methuen, MA 01844
Tuesday, April 11, 2017

The Nevins Memorial Library
305 Broadway, Methuen, MA 01844
Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Register Iannuccillo and Registry staff will be available to:

- Answer questions about the Massachusetts Homestead Act;
- Verify if a Declaration of Homestead has been recorded on your property; If not, why you should record one on your property;
- Provide or order a copy of your current deed or discharge of your mortgage;
- Consumer Alerts
- By the Numbers District Reports
- Booklets to help you use our website & Information Booklets on your town
- Massachusetts Registry of Deeds Directory

No appointment necessary.



The Northern Essex Registry of Deeds, 354 Merrimack Street, Lawrence, is the principal office for real property in Andover, Lawrence, Methuen and North Andover. Contact the Registry of Deeds Customer Service Department at 978-557-1900 or by email at northernessexcustomerservice@sec.state.ma.us.

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